# Abu kidnappers demand military pullout from Jolo

STORY ON PAGE A2

ORDINARYONG TAO RIN AKO!

## 'They don't look like terrorists'

**By G. G. Lacuarta**

JOMA a terrorist? A bad joke, say friends of his.

Exiled communist leader Jose Ma. Sison is as ordinary as you

THEY/A17

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### WHAT'S INSIDE

- **Maximum tolerance for vendors–MMDA** METRO / A23
- **Ex-CPP rebs form party** ACROSS / A16
- **Ally cautions Bush on attacking Iraq** WORLD / A11

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# Lawmen kill Pentagon gang leader

**By Dona Pazzibugan and Martin Marfil**

**THIS time, there was a body.**

**Pentagon kidnap gang leader Faisal Marohombsar was slain yesterday in a gun battle with combined police and military forces in Magallanes, Cavite, during a raid in which two kidnap victims were rescued.**

Three other gang members, including one policeman, were captured.

Police dumped Marohombsar's bullet-riddled body in a wooden cart and showed it to President Macapagal-Arroyo when she later arrived at a village near the battle scene.

"It's a good thing this was not a sea encounter and Faisal Marohombsar didn't drown so the whole world can see his remains," the President said in Filipino, with a laugh.

Doubts have hounded the government's claim that Abu Sayyaf leader Abu Sabaya was killed in a sea encounter off Zamboanga del Norte on June 21, because his body was never recovered.

"You cannot forever evade the long arm of the law. Our law enforcers will get you one way or the other," the President said at the scene, addressing criminals at large.

**MAROHOMBSAR: His escape from Camp Came in June was short-lived.** NAKTAF FILE PHOTO

The Pentagon gang is widely believed to be behind the abduction of Italian priest Guiseppe Pierantoni, four Chinese engi-

LAWMEN/A18

## Surrender feelers led nowhere

**By PDI Mindanao Bureau**

HE WAS the proverbial "big fish" who managed to slip through the net.

On Feb. 16 this year, Faisal Marohombsar was arrested while fast asleep at the Hasmija Lodge on Elizondo Street, near the Quiapo Islamic Center, in Manila.

"We have captured a very big fish," said Director General Hermogenes Ebdane, then the chief of the National Anti-Crime Commission's Anti-Kidnapping Task Force.

On June 19, however, while detained inside Camp Crame—the headquarters of the Philippine National Police—Marohombsar escaped together with two other alleged kidnappers.

SURRENDER/A19

**THE BULLET-RIDDLED** body of Pentagon gang leader Faisal Marohombsar is presented to President Macapagal, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Roy Cimatu, Philippine National Police chief Hermogenes Ebdane and National Capital Region Police chief Reynaldo Velasco. PCPO/MALACAÑANG PHOTO

## MMDA faces daunting task amid street action politics

**By Amando Doronila**

**ANALYSIS**

THE DEFIANCE of market vendors to orders of Bayani Fernando, chair of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), to clear the streets of their illegal installations underlines the rise of street activism as a weapon to bludgeon government into acceding to their demands.

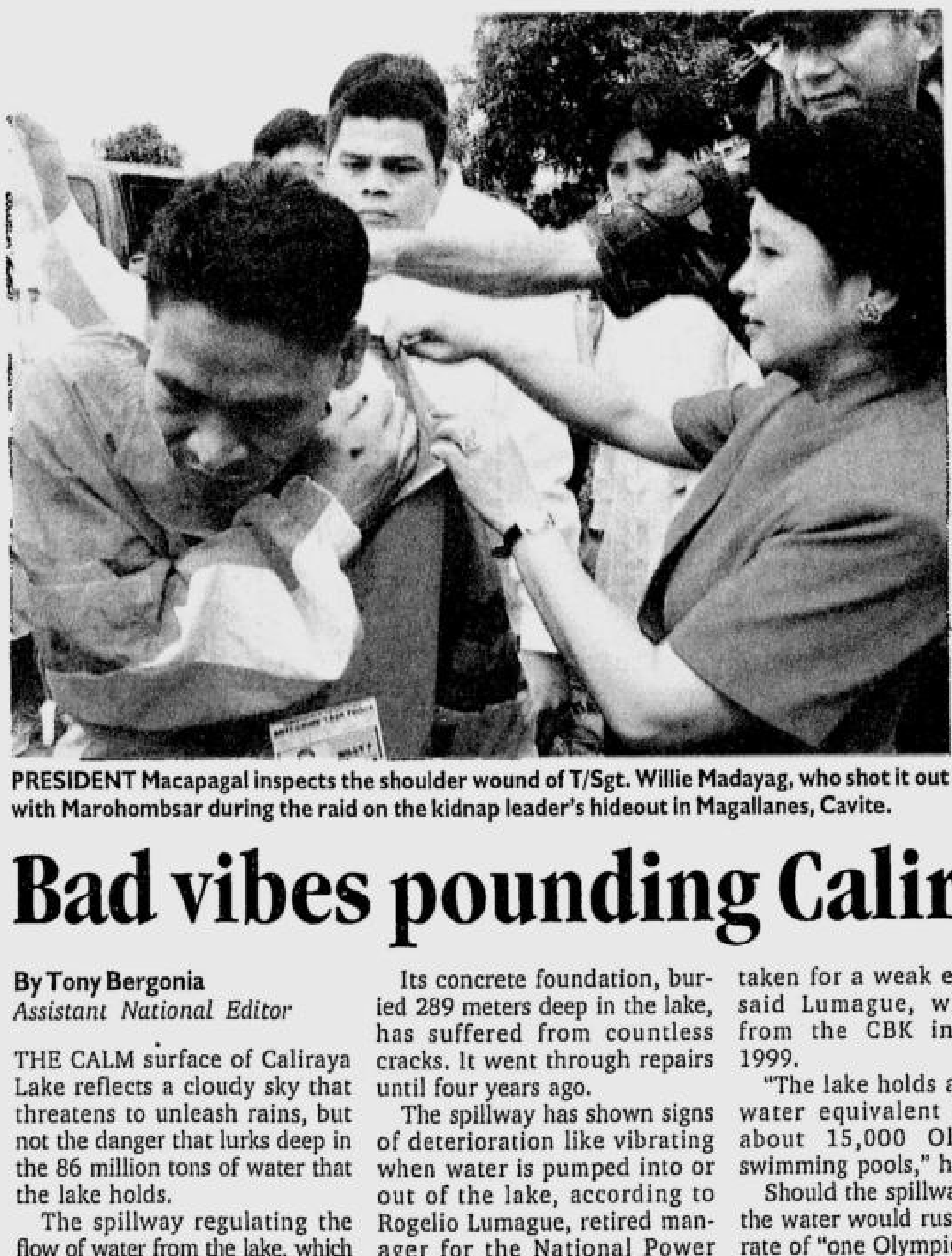
This defiance is not limited to the poor who eke out a living from the underground economy while breaking the law in the process. It replicates, on the lumpen-proletariat level, the widening trend of the engagement of other classes in pressure politics using the streets as the arena of contention to impose their demands.

This phenomenon has infected the middle classes—especially the white-collar segments in the bureaucracy—which have used their variant of "people power" to remove officials who have earned their antagonism.

The resignations, for example of Rene Bañez from the Bureau of Internal Revenue and, earlier, of Vitaliano Nañagas II from the Social Security System are examples of heads scalped by this people power weapon gone berserk.

MMDA/A6

## Girl, nanny rescued; media praised



PCPO/MALACAÑANG PHOTO

**PRESIDENT** Macapagal inspects the shoulder wound of T/Sgt. Willie Madayag, who shot it out with Marohombsar during the raid on the kidnap leader's hideout in Magallanes, Cavite.

FOUR-YEAR-OLD Patricia Lopez Chong and her nanny, Winena Jordan, were rescued in yesterday's combined police-military operation in Magallanes, Cavite—and the President praised the media for helping make their safe return possible.

The President thanked the media for not reporting the kidnapping of Chong—identified by the police as a niece of a prominent Filipino business executive—and Jordan. This would have endangered the victims' lives, she said.

"It helped a lot that the media did not report the kidnapping while this was a live case; our military and police were able to operate well. And it turned out (Pentagon gang leader) Faisal (Marohombsar) was with the group that kidnapped the girl," President Macapagal-Arroyo said.

Police sources said the gang had demanded a ransom of P100 million for the child and her nanny.

The girl was on her way to a school in Alabang, Muntinlupa, on Aug. 19 when she was abducted along with Jordan. Yesterday, the President said the girl's family had unwittingly employed one of the gang members as a driver.

The kidnap victims were rescued after

GIRL/A18

## Village docs to earn management degrees

**By Charles E. Buban**

PALO, Leyte—Even as his mother's remains lay in Manila, he chose not to leave Jiabong, Western Samar, where he is serving as the remote town's first-ever doctor.

"I think my mother, wherever she may be, will be very proud that I stayed (in Jiabong) where I could do something much more," Dr. Cornelio Solis said.

Solis, 26, is one of the young doctors taking the road less traveled on a mission that requires them to be away from families, friends and the security and comfort of their homes.

"I don't work for money, prestige, and all that," Solis told the INQUIRER. "I may sound like a monumental hypocrite, but I guess I just want to build something, create something that is worthwhile—that's what it boils down to."

Solis volunteered for the newest project initiated by the Department of Health in partnership with a business graduate school and a multinational drug company in select municipalities in the country.

"These doctor volunteers are people of uncommon stuff and their kind should never be dis-

VILLAGE/A18

## Bad vibes pounding Caliraya spillway

**By Tony Bergonia**
*Assistant National Editor*

THE CALM surface of Caliraya Lake reflects a cloudy sky that threatens to unleash rains, but not the danger that lurks deep in the 86 million tons of water that the lake holds.

The spillway regulating the flow of water from the lake, which was dug out of a village with the same name 63 years ago, is not in as good shape as the well-paved roads leading to it, the vacant picnic huts along the way and the resorts beside the lake.

Its concrete foundation, buried 289 meters deep in the lake, has suffered from countless cracks. It went through repairs until four years ago.

The spillway has shown signs of deterioration like vibrating when water is pumped into or out of the lake, according to Rogelio Lumague, retired manager for the National Power Corp.'s Caliraya-Botokan-Kalayaan (CBK) power complex that draws hydroelectricity from Caliraya Lake.

In some instances, the vibration is strong enough to be mistaken for a weak earthquake, said Lumague, who retired from the CBK in February 1999.

"The lake holds a volume of water equivalent to that of about 15,000 Olympic-size swimming pools," he said.

Should the spillway give way, the water would rush out at the rate of "one Olympic-size swimming pool per six seconds," he said.

The lake (actually a reservoir) supplies water to generate the turbines of the CBK, which produces about 300 megawatts of electricity.

In the process of generating electricity, water is pumped out of the nearby Laguna Lake in the day at a rate of 50 cubic meters per second into Caliraya Lake.

At night, water is pumped out of Caliraya Lake into Laguna Lake at a rate of 60 cubic meters per second.

This pumping in and out of water runs the machinery that generates electricity, but it also creates what Lumague describes as "thermal stress" that mani-

BAD/A18

**WEATHER FORECAST**

FORECAST: Eastern Section of Southern Luzon and Visayas will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: CHONA GALANG, PDI RESEARCH/08/26/02

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Metro Manila | Partly Cloudy | Iloilo/Bacolod | Partly Cloudy |
| Baguio | Partly Cloudy | Roxas | Partly Cloudy |
| Tuguegarao | Partly Cloudy | Cebu | Partly Cloudy |
| Laoag | Partly Cloudy | Tacloban | Mostly Cloudy |
| Clark Zone | Partly Cloudy | Gen. Santos | Partly Cloudy |
| Tagaytay | Partly Cloudy | Zamboanga | Partly Cloudy |
| Legazpi | Mostly Cloudy | Cagayan de Oro | Partly Cloudy |
| Calapan | Partly Cloudy | Davao | Partly Cloudy |

# Abus demand military pullout

**ZAMBOANGA CITY—Gunmen linked to the notorious Abu Sayyaf bandit gang demanded yesterday that the military pull out of Jolo island before negotiating the release of four Filipino women they seized last week.**

Officials in Jolo said the demand was relayed to negotiators led by a local mayor, Hasser Hayudini, by relatives of the gunmen led by Abdulmuin Sahiron, a nephew of Abu Sayyaf leader Radulan Sahiron.

But Armed Forces chief Gen. Roy Cimatu rejected the demand, saying troops would continue to deploy in strategic areas as a five-day ultimatum to free the captives ends on Tuesday.

An official close to the negotiations said the kidnappers were willing to negotiate for the release of the four members of the Jehovah's Witnesses Christian sect if the military pulled out four battalions dispatched to Jolo.

"The kidnappers are now afraid of the military presence in the area," the official said, requesting anonymity.

The military has given negotiators until Tuesday to convince the gunmen to free the captives, failing which troops will be sent in to retrieve them and crush the kidnappers.

The four were kidnapped last week along with four other companions. Two Muslim guides were earlier freed, while two others were beheaded and their heads dumped near a Jolo market. It was a grisly reminder that the Abu Sayyaf and their offshoot groups still remain a threat despite joint US-Philippine counter-terrorism operations that ended last month.

## Alarm

The latest killing by kidnappers has alarmed the government, which has ordered a military build-up in Jolo in preparation for a possible all-out offensive against armed groups in the tiny island.

About eight battalions of soldiers plus an additional Light Reaction Company, an elite Army anti-terrorist unit trained by the US Green Berets, have poured into the island.

Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Ernesto Carolina said authorities have located the area where the kidnappers are holding their hostages.

**ARMS BAYANIHAN.** Two soldiers carry a machinegun between them in their pursuit operations against the Abu Sayyaf.

DENNIS SABANGAN

"What the troops (are) doing is setting up the bandits into a target spot," Carolina said.

"But we are giving the civil authorities time to negotiate until Tuesday," he said.

Cimatu said the military would put its forces in place until the ultimatum expired, even as he stressed pursuit operations against Abu Sayyaf units elsewhere on Jolo island were continuing.

Troops will likely be placed along "escape routes" near a mountainous area in Patikul town where the gunmen are believed hiding, Cimatu said.

This would prevent the kidnappers from seeking sanctuary in nearby Abu Sayyaf-held areas in Patikul, a rugged and underdeveloped town on Jolo's northern coast, he said.

"Of all the places in Jolo, this is one area which has not developed," said Cimatu who was assigned as a company commander there in the 1970s.

## Misuari

Cimatu said the 15 kidnappers have gone to higher ground and could link up with the Abu Sayyaf and a renegade group identified with jailed Moro leader Nur Misuari in Mt. Sinumaan in Sulu.

Cimatu said there are about 150 Abu Sayyaf members scattered in Sulu. Robot is based in Talipao while other Abu Sayyaf leaders are in Indanan, he said.

The towns are located at the foot of Mt. Sinumaan.

Cimatu said the eight battalions are engaged in battling different groups, not just the 15 kidnappers.

Meanwhile, Sulu Gov. Yusop Jikiri has complained against the build-up, accusing the military of ignoring the pleas of civilians and local government officials for a "temporary halt in the operations to allow the people to harvest their produce like lanzones, durian and mangosteen."

## Harvest

But Brig. Gen. Romeo Tolentino, the commander of the 104th Army Brigade, said the five-day ultimatum period was enough time for the people of Patikul to harvest their fruits.

A former Sulu vice governor, Munib Estino, warned that if the residents of Patikul are not allowed to harvest their fruits, the ranks of Abu Sayyaf members would increase.

The months of August and September are the peak fruit-picking season, he said.

Commenting on earlier military claims that the kidnappers were drug addicts and not Abu Sayyaf, Estino said Abdulmuin Sahiron, the alleged leader of the kidnappers, was not only a drug dependent but also an Abu Sayyaf member.

"They are all Abu Sayyaf. They use drugs to embolden themselves when going to battle with government soldiers. Almost all of them are drug users, only Radulan Sahiron is not," Estilo said.

***Reports from AFP, Martin Marfil and Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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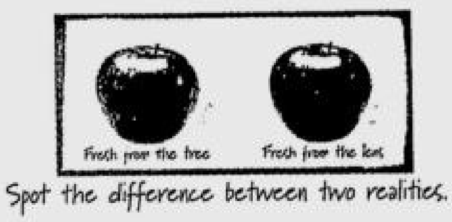

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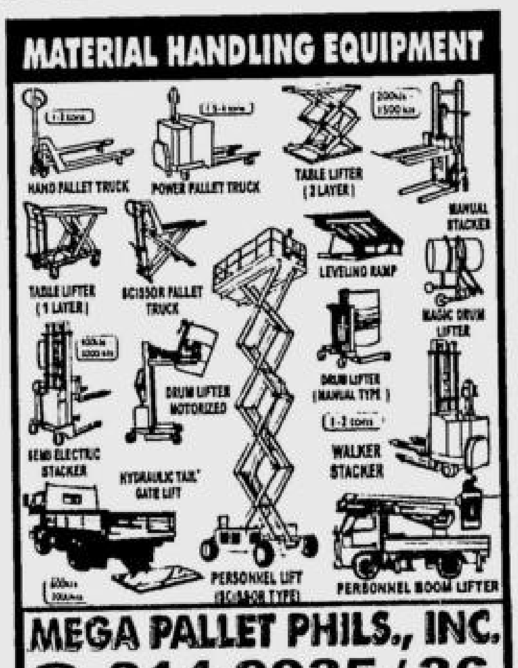

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# Peace talks GMA ticket to '04–Ermita

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

ERMITA

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's reelection bid depends to a large extent on the government's successful peace negotiations with the communist rebels.

That is why the Macapagal administration cannot abandon the peace process, according to Presidential adviser on the peace process Eduardo Ermita.

In a letter dated Aug. 21 to INQUIRER publisher Isagani Yambot, Ermita took exception to communist leader Jose Ma. Sison's statements blaming the breakdown of the talks on the government.

"An astute politician, President Macapagal would like to remain in power for as long as she lawfully can. Hence, she has no intention of failing in the area of peacemaking," Ermita said.

"As her chief peacemaker, I am duty-bound to ensure that she wins the peace that our countrymen yearn for, and, hence, a second mandate in 2004," Ermita continued. He ended the sentence with a question mark.

Palace sources said the Cabinet oversight committee on internal security will meet today with the government peace panel to determine if it should continue to pursue the peace talks.

Earlier, Palace officials were quoted as saying the peace negotiations–which were suspended in June last year–were in danger of collapsing.

Ms Macapagal stepped up recently the military offensive against the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army.

The government also supported the United States' declaration of the CPP-NPA as "terrorists," and hailed the US, British and Dutch governments' freezing of the assets of Sison and other exiled National Democratic Front leaders in the Netherlands.

While the government insists it is still open to negotiations, Sison said his group would not sit down with the Macapagal administration to end the decades-old insurgency.

But Ermita also admitted the peace talks remain a priority of the Macapagal administration for her political survival.

He said abandoning peace talks with the communists "caused the debacle (sic) of not one but two heavy handed regimes," referring to the Marcos and Estrada administrations.

"If there is an Edsa lesson that must be learned by those aspiring to lead our beloved Philippines, it is this: scuttling peace is the fastest and most effective way to be booted out of office," Ermita said.

"The quest and attainment of peace is the legacy and *raison d'etre* of any administration that seeks to find a constituency at Edsa. (The) President was very much aware of this unwritten and generally accepted codicil to the Edsa mandate," he said.

That a final peace agreement with the secessionist Moro National Liberation Front was forged in 1996 shows there is hope for a similar agreement with the CPP-NPA, he added.

"If the Philippine government can negotiate a final peace settlement of centuries-old problems like those in the South, what more a 50-year-old problem whose roots are purely socio-economic as the insurgency is in our countryside?" Ermita asked rhetorically.

# Investors still wary of South, USAID says

By Norman Bordadora

AMERICAN aid officials in the country have admitted the peace and order situation in Mindanao still makes it quite difficult for valuable foreign investments to come in and for development assistance to reach poverty-stricken communities.

At a weekend news briefing by the US Agency for International Development, a top USAID official said, "The lack of investments in Mindanao is one of the reasons it continues to be the poorest area of the Philippines. Investors still think twice about putting up businesses there because of the perceived peace and order risks."

With foreign investors continuing to shun Mindanao, USAID announced it has doubled funding assistance to the region.

From $19 million in 2001, USAID has allotted $41 million for Mindanao development this year. The problem, however, is how to effectively get the programs to the people in need, USAID officials said.

"We have gone to all of Mindanao but we have not been able to get into all the areas all the time," said a ranking USAID official who is directly involved in Mindanao development efforts.

Incidents such as the recent abduction of Jehovah's Witnesses by suspected Abu Sayyaf members in Sulu make USAID workers wary of going into certain areas of Mindanao.

"The reason our workers, who include Filipinos, have yet to be involved in unfortunate incidents is that we coordinate with the local governments (and other concerned sectors) where we can go and where we can't and when," said the "hands on" USAID official.

USAID has concentrated on four programs for the development of Mindanao. These are livelihood opportunities for former combatants, conflict management and governance, reproductive health, and environment.

# Minority wants turn at 'money managers'

THE HOUSE minority has drafted a letter asking Speaker Jose de Venecia to schedule a Question Hour where they could grill Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho and Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin on the huge national budget deficit.

Minority Leader Carlos Padilla said yesterday that in a recent meeting, the 20-member minority supported a bid by its officials to seek the holding of a Question Hour in the House.

Padilla and Iloilo Rep. Rolex Suplico said the minority wants to invite the "economic managers" to answer queries on the tax collection and other revenue shortfalls, as well on reports that Malacañang might declare a "state of unmanageable budget deficit" or a budget crisis.

"We are seeking a Question Hour because of the seriousness of the budget deficit and for the purpose of transparency," Padilla said.

Congress can summon Cabinet officials to explain policy matters. *Christine O. Avendaño*

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# 'Ordinary' Filipino heroes honored

## NGO marks Heroes Day by citing 'best in Pinoy'

**By Luige A. del Puerto**

A NEW non-government organization that seeks to emphasize the best in the Filipino marked National Heroes' Day yesterday with a twist.

While the government's commemoration focused on rites at the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Fort Bonifacio, the two-month-old Galing Pilipino Movement (GPM) celebrated the day-to-day heroism of ordinary folks.

"Our national heroes are dead, but the country does not lack for people who go about their lives in ways we could all be proud of," said Erly de Guzman, GPM founder.

The celebration highlighted the inauguration of GPM's first provincial chapter at the Barasoain Church in Bulacan, home to some of the most colorful heroes, and site of some of the most significant events, in Philippine history.

Among the "everyday heroes" cited was Max Bernardo, a businessman and volunteer firefighter who finances a fire brigade in Malabon.

"When I first learned of this group," De Guzman told the INQUIRER, "I thought they were nuts."

Bernardo said he himself thought fire volunteerism was crazy. "I had no idea how good it felt to help others in need. I went along once, and never looked back. Every day after work, I drop by our base," he said.

Celebrity guests at the inauguration were themselves worthy subjects of tribute, De Guzman pointed out.

University of the Philippines Prof. Edru Abraham, an artist and musician, brought along his Kontemporaryong Gamelang Pilipino (Kontra-Gapi) to perform.

Thirteen years ago, Abraham founded the UP-based music ensemble whose objective was to create a distinctly Filipino sound by fusing ethnic, foreign and contemporary influences.

Kontra-Gapi has since spent a total of 15 months abroad, touring the United States, Canada, Europe, Laos and Vietnam.

"Filipinos are world-class musicians. We have produced Lea Salongas and many other singing stars. But they interpret only Western music. In the process, they become ambassadors of foreign cultures," Abraham said.

"We started Kontra-Gapi to showcase our own music, not so much to the world but to ordinary Filipinos who seem to forget they have their own music, and musical instruments," he added. "Ethnic music is amazing."

Kontra-Gapi's performance elicited enthusiastic applause from the audience of mostly young people.

"It made me feel proud to be Filipino," said Jay Marc Chico, head of the Samahan ng Makabagong Kabataang Progresibo sa Bayan ng Malolos, a coalition of Sangguniang Kabataan members. "I thought ethnic music was backward, even shameful," he admitted. "Kontra-Gapi has changed the way I feel."

The GPM Malolos chapter is headed by Pandayan, a group whose members are retailers of school and office supplies. Jun Cabochan, Pandayan general manager, said he found out about GPM while reading a feature story about the group in the INQUIRER's June 12 issue.

"I was immediately drawn to the idea," he said. "GMP's goal was something we had long wanted to do—help bring about positive consciousness among Filipinos. I called Erly (De Guzman) and we started organizing the Malolos chapter," Cabochan said.

Pandayan's retail store-members will display GPM posters and distribute information leaflets, Cabochan said. "There is so much negativity in the country. We hope this will help."

**TIME FOR HEROES.** Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Roy Cimatu lead rites at the Libingan ng mga Bayani yesterday. Behind them is US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone.

ERIK ARAZAS

# Solon rushes debates on anti-death bills

**By Christine O. Avendaño**

THE HOUSE leadership was urged yesterday to schedule immediately plenary debates on a bill seeking to repeal the death penalty law.

Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales said she would reiterate her appeal tomorrow before the House committee on rules, where she is to defend a report by two committees, including one which she chairs, favoring the repeal of the death penalty law, or Republic Act 7659.

Rosales stressed in an interview and in a statement she issued yesterday the need for both the House and the Senate to act quickly on the anti-death penalty bills, especially since more than 20 convicts are up for execution in the next four months.

Rosales, who chairs the House committee on civil, political and human rights, said that while President Macapagal-Arroyo has postponed the Aug. 30 execution of convicted rapist Rolando Pagdayawon, this was "temporary relief" because his execution would only be reset to another date.

There was also no assurance, she said, that the other executions scheduled for next month would not push through.

President Macapagal announced last week the postponement of Pagdayawon's execution on Aug. 30, the first this year, in deference to the birthday the day before of Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin.

Earlier, Rosales had written the President appealing for stays of execution for the convicts since Congress was deliberating the anti-death penalty bills and most of legislators favor repealing RA 7659.

In her statement, Rosales also said most of the 989 death convicts were poor.

Half of them were convicted of rape, less than one-fourth for murder and 25 percent for drug offenses.

Most of them are now in their mid-40s, with one-third of them formerly agricultural workers while one-fourth come from the service sector.

"Highlights of the survey blatantly illustrate that majority of those who are condemned to die by state execution belong to the marginal and deprived sectors of society, without access to the resources for a decent and dignified life," Rosales said.

"It is in this regard the policy of restorative justice is asserted, in justifying the passage of a law that absolutely abolishes the violative and cruel act of capital punishment."

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## Pinoy medics off to care for OFWs

THE FIRST batch of medical and social workers being deployed to help overseas Filipino workers in major host countries is set to leave this week.

Labor Undersecretary Manuel Imson said eight doctors and seven social workers—the pilot team under the Overseas Comprehensive and Social Services Package (OCSSP)—will be dispatched to Philippine labor offices abroad to strengthen on-site assistance to OFWs in distress.

He did not announce the destinations or identify the team members, who recently underwent an orientation program with the Department of Labor and Employment.

The team will conduct work site and jail visitations, as well as periodic dialogues with individual and organized OFWs.*Blanche S.Rivera*

# Reform law should be DepEd priority—Oreta

**By Rocky Nazareno**

NEWLY appointed Education Secretary Edilberto de Jesus should immediately carry out reforms in the public schools by implementing rules and regulations (IRR) that would make "chief operating officers" out of local school heads.

The IRR, contained in Republic Act 9155, or the Governance of Basic Education Act, have not been released one year after the law as enacted, according to its author, opposition Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta.

She had sought a Senate inquiry into the "undue delay," Oreta said, because it "has hobbled the implementation of much-needed and far-reaching reforms in the public school administration system."

RA 9155 specifically provides for the promulgation by the DepEd of its IRR within 90 days upon approval. Oreta said the matter should be on De Jesus' priority list.

"This landmark law is anchored on the principle of shared governance in which DepEd regional directors, superintendents, principals and other school officials are given more planning and budgeting responsibilities in their respective schools," Oreta said.

DE JESUS

Wider participation and accountability would enable school administrators to solve many problems at their level, she pointed out. This is needed for them to conform with "rapid changes that have taken place in the education system."

## Flight delays scored

THIS time it was the turn of Davao Rep. Antonio Floirendo Jr. to complain about the practice of local airlines not to promptly inform passengers of delays in their scheduled flights.

Floirendo is the husband of former Miss Universe Margie Moran-Floirendo, who earlier this month deplored the delay of a Philippine Airlines flight to Davao that almost caused her to miss an important engagement.

Floirendo said, "The modus operandi of some airlines is not to tell their passengers of delays they know of in advance so the passengers won't have time to book seats on other airlines."

In a statement, Floirendo said he and three other legislators saw their respective local flights delayed last Friday.

Floirendo was headed for Davao on PAL Flight 815, only to be told by airline officials the 4:30 p.m. flight would be delayed. He said co-passenger Sen. Edgardo Angara missed an appointment because of the delay.

On the same day, Representatives Ted Failon and Gerardo Espina saw their PAL Flight 193 to Tacloban taking off three hours behind its original 1:30 p.m. schedule.

"If there were aircraft technical problems discovered at the last minute, then the delays would be understood," Floirendo said. "But if it is because of a shortage of aircraft or a "planned delay," as some PAL insiders have confided to irate passengers, then it is in bad faith on the part of the carrier." *Christine O. Avendaño*

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# SC ruling on Ombudsman's powers invoked in Urban case

By Raul C. Dancel

DOES the Ombudsman have the authority to suspend any government official, particularly one found liable for criminal and administrative charges?

The Supreme Court apparently does not think so, yet for years former Ombudsman Aniano Desierto had been suspending or dismissing from service hundreds of government officials and at least one legislator.

And now the central bank and the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. are out to test the SC ruling circumscribing the powers of the country's top anti-graft prosecutor in a case involving two of their officials suspended in early August by the Ombudsman.

The SC had ruled in a decision handed down last April and involving a special investigator of the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation that the Ombudsman "has no authority to directly dismiss" any government official.

The case stemmed from a petition filed by Renato Tapiador, a former special investigator who was assigned as a technical assistant to then BID associate commissioner Bayani Subido Jr.

Tapiador was accused in 1994 by American Walter Beck and his wife, Monica, of extorting from them P10,000 in exchange for an alien certificate of registration, or ACR.

Beck alleged that even after he had paid P10,000, Tapiador refused to issue him an ACR unless he paid P7,000 more.

Tapiador denied the couple's allegation. He accused the Becks of "(shouting) invectives" at him when they came to follow up Beck's application for an ACR.

The BID resident Ombudsman Ronaldo Ledesma found Tapiador liable for violating civil service rules. He recommended that criminal and administrative charges be filed against Tapiador.

The Ombudsman dismissed the criminal charges against Tapiador but upheld the administrative charges and later dismissed the BID investigator from government service.

The SC, however, upheld Tapiador's claim that his dismissal by the Ombudsman was illegal.

Citing Article XI of the 1987 Constitution, the high court ruled that the Ombudsman "can only 'recommend' the removal of the public official or employee found to be at fault to the public official concerned."

Rep. Oscar Moreno, who had been seeking to impeach Desierto, said the implications of the high court's decision was "grave" as it would allow those already dismissed from government service to sue the Ombudsman.

Early this month, the Ombudsman's office suspended PDIC president Norberto Nazareno, and a deputy central bank governor Alberto Reyes.

Nazareno and Reyes were suspended for at least a month in connection with charges filed by the owners and former executives of Urban Bank, which was closed down two years ago.

Nazareno and Reyes were accused of closing the bank with undue haste. The complainants also questioned the use of some of the bank's assets to pay its obligations to the state-run Land Bank of the Philippines.

The lawyers of the PDIC and the central bank plan to use the high court's ruling on the Tapiador case to have the suspension of Nazareno and Reyes reversed.

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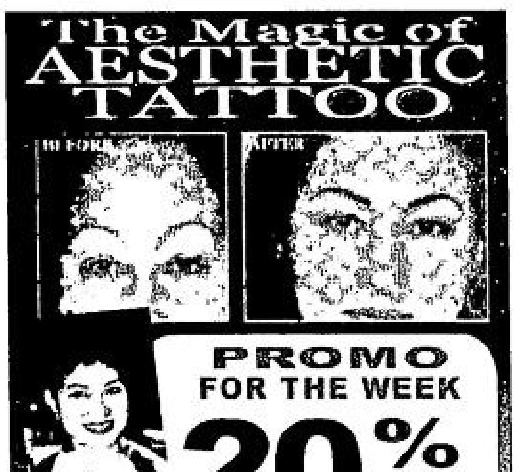

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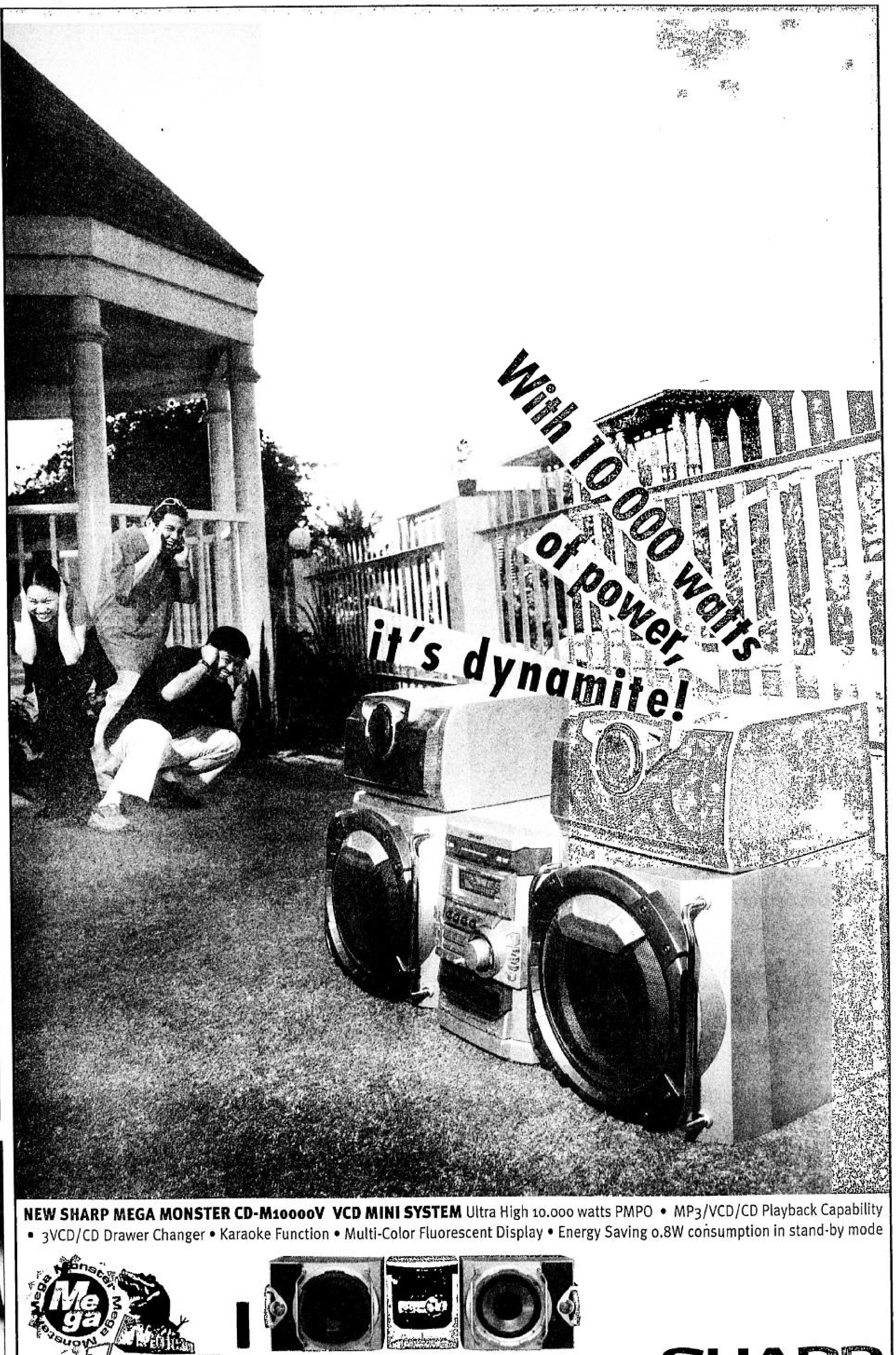

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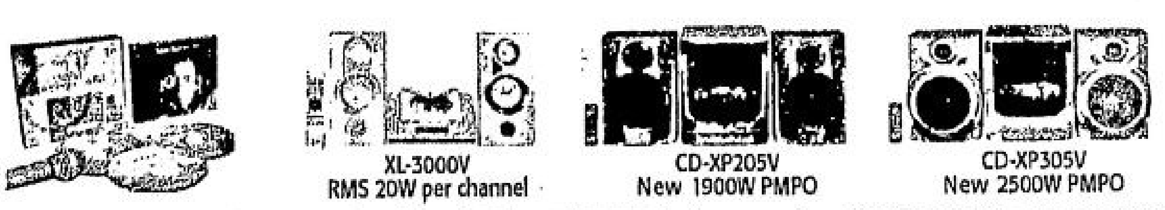

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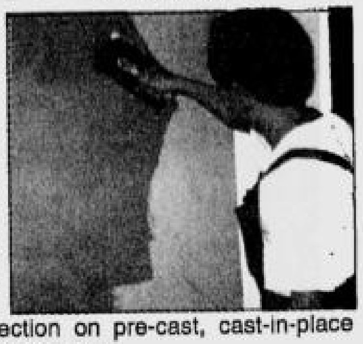

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# MMDA faces daunting task amid street action politics

From page A1

The government, afraid of stoking wider unrest at a time when it stands on soft grounds in building political stability, has caved in to the pressure of the streets. But the more it backs off, the bolder street activism becomes.

MMDA Chair Fernando is absolutely right in enforcing his orders to clear the streets of illegal obstructions when he argues that poverty is not an excuse for breaking the law.

For a long time now, the streets in the metropolis have become narrower than before as they are choked by car repair shops, parked vehicles without garages, and wayward vendors whose stalls eat up traffic lanes.

## Right to break law?

What Fernando is doing really is to return the streets to the public and ease the flow of traffic. Metro Manila is an unkind and unfriendly city to pedestrians.

If we are to follow the angry arguments of street vendors being driven out of the sidewalks that they are being deprived of their livelihood, that would be accepting the notion that the poor have the right to break the law because of their poverty.

And if we consider that more than half of our population are poor, we can have an idea of the scale of lawlessness we are fostering, even only in the area of law enforcement on vendors, black economy operators and fiendish public transport drivers, who deem it their right to break traffic rules with impunity on the grounds that they are poor making through law breaking.

In this country, there is no longer a distinction between the poor and the middle class, as well as the upper classes, in their engagement in street activism to redress grievances, although the upper classes are more effective in securing their demands through economy retaliation and paralysis.

There is a gang-up on the government, not by pressure groups but by disparate social classes that have been intoxicated by the elixir of two people power actions, which succeeded in toppling two regimes—those of Ferdinand Marcos and Joseph Estrada.

In the case of the poor, their excuse to break the law and defy enforcement of rules designed for the general public good is poverty. In the case of the middle and upper classes, their street activism is driven by more pretentious reasons, such as the offending "management style" of bureaucratic managers or the bad governance and corruption of government.

## Street arena

Corruption in this country, as it is in other democratic societies, is an issue relevant and resonant mainly to the middle and upper classes.

Just the same, the arena for this new form of expressing grievances and promoting interests is the streets, away from the traditional conduits of interest articulation, such as the political parties, lobby groups, the bureaucracy, interest groups (the Church included) and the legislature.

Thus, the rise of street action politics is a symptom of the breakdown of traditional institutions and structures for capturing and mediating public demands and grievances.

The breakdown of these structures has given birth to the emerging power of so-called "civil society," especially politically driven nongovernment organizations which are unaccountable and whose methods range from legal to extra-legal, exercising the power of political blackmail.'

## Civil society movements

During the launching in Manila recently of the United Nations Human Development Report, with the theme "Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World," Sakiko Fukuda-Parr, lead author of the report, pointed out:

"Global civil society movements have been behind some of the most significant global policy shifts of the last decade. But civic activism is not a substitute for democratic principles in formal decision-making structures. Just as consulting with NGOs is not a substitute for parliamentary debate at the national level, democratic principles require that all countries get a hearing in global institutions and decisions."

While examining the emergence of new forms of participation through civil society, the report said that the next stage of the democratic wave of the 1980s and the 1990s should be "deepening democracy, that is by giving ordinary people a greater say in both national and global policy making."

Mark Malloch Brown, UNDP administrator, noted that the civil society activism in the Philippines was "born in the heat of the opposition to the Marcos regime," but he added that activism had been driven by widespread poverty to expand to social issues beyond political issues.

He called this activism a transitional development arising out of the breakdown of traditional structures, such as parties that have experienced collapsing membership even in older Western democracies.

## People power habit

Clearly, this prognosis has found expression in the street activism of the urban poor scouring for livelihood in the congested streets of Metro Manila.

These UNDP officials have warned against "making people power a habit" in deposing governments. Brown observed that in many Third World countries that had taken the road of democracy, elected leaders had been thrown out of office by people power activism because "they got out of alignment with people's demands."

He said elected leaders in poor countries could no longer count on a settled "tenured electoral mandate." The democratic crisis in these countries whose leaders were forced out before their term is up, Brown said, was fueled by tensions flowing from urgent popular demands for poverty reduction and fighting corruption.

In these upheavals, he said, "old battles are being re-fought," no longer within traditional structures and institutions but in a more turbulent arena where there are no set rules—the streets.

This is why MMDA Chair Fernando faces a daunting task in clearing the streets of illegal users composed of the poor. He is using police powers to attack a manifestation of poverty.

In building a strong state, for which the Macapagal administration is obsessed, its biggest obstacle, not to mention dilemma, is the ascendancy of street activism which cannot be combated with the police powers of the state without inflaming popular unrest.

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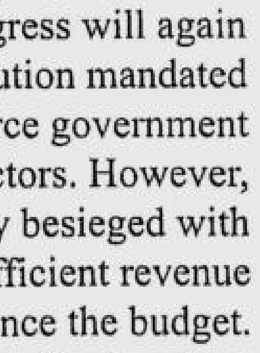
TRANSPARENCY FOR IMPROVED TAX COLLECTION EFFICIENCY

# Political will key to bigger collection of taxes

With the Executive submitting the Proposed General Appropriation Act for fiscal year 2003, Congress will again take on its Constitution mandated task of appropriating scarce government resources across sectors. However, Congress is perennially besieged with the problem of insufficient revenue sources that will finance the budget. This Representation has long espoused an easy, fast and sure way of beefing up our revenues without the necessity of enacting new measures. All it takes is to institute transparency to capture the potential tax due in the net.



**Congressman Herminio Teves**
**3rd District, Negros Oriental**

POLITICAL WILL IN INSTITUTING TRANSPARENCY will plug the loopholes in tax collection. Tax evasion and avoidance in the country is so rampant that even tax experts, including the IMF, states that collection efficiency is a measly 60% of the potential. Neither the DOF nor the BIR refuted such findings.

For fiscal year 2001, the BIR only collected P388.670 billion out of the tax potential of P647.783 billion. Given a 90% efficiency, potential collection should amounted to P583.004 billion while on an 80% efficiency collection target should be at P518.226 billion. It can be said that if only we are vigilant in our collection effort, the 2003 target can be even higher than the present P465.6 Billion goal.

If the government does not exercise political will and institute the much-needed collection reform strategies, such as transparency, it would resort to massive foreign and domestic borrowings to be able to finance its proposed budget. Such move would be tantamount to economic suicide since as we keep on borrowing we also lose much of our revenue source to the payment of interest as well as principal amortization. Borrowings would provide short-term relief to a cash-strapped government but its long-term consequence would be a localized version of Argentina. The country's national debt increased by 15.2% to P2.579 trillion from P2.239 trillion from last year. Debt payment in the 2002 budget stands at P359.87 billion, an increase of 30% from the FY 2001 budget.

**On tax collection efficiency**

Collection efficiency rate of 80%-90% in tax payments of corporations, business establishments, and individuals can be easily achieved. To be able to do this it is important that Local government units (LGUs) be tapped and allowed to play a crucial role in the monitoring of tax payments in their locality. Since they are getting 40% share of national revenues in the form of IRA, it would be to their great advantage if they were part of the concerted effort in revenue collection.

Aside from instituting transparency, benchmarking by player by industry is another strategy that will surely beef up revenue collection. The BIR report must include an industry player's sales, tax paid on gross (VAT, percentage, excise, documentary stamp tax, amusement tax and on income) and other pertinent information that would aid the BIR in coming up with acceptable industry norms. The bureau can easily detect any deviation from the industry benchmark, hence, meriting investigation.

**On the Value Added Tax (VAT)**

Another type of tax that has reported large leakage is the Valued Added Tax (VAT). The VAT is being passed over and collected from consumers (directly or indirectly) however the sad part lies in the fact that it is not being fully remitted to the government. Another area that should be looked into by the BIR, Congress and the DOF is that on input VAT claimed by industry players. Through the conduct of a series of meetings on industry tax payments it was found out that the input VAT is being abused. Other players claim high input tax credits while others have minimal claims.

Looking at these perspectives using three large industries, the point made can be clearly illustrated.

**On the softdrinks/beverage industry**

Inputs to production for the beverage industry only constitute sugar, coloring, and food additives. Said inputs comprise only 2% at the maximum. Despite minimal inputs to production which are not VATable, this industry is enjoying zero-rated sales. The BIR must review why this industry has claimed zero-rated sales of P7.464 Billion. The Bureau should also look into the purchases made amounting to P28.614 Billion that is VATable and whether such claims were supported by proof of VAT payments. As of September 20, 2000, there was a recorded collection of BIR of P335.99 million out of a total sale of P28.588 Billion. The input tax claimed is P2.521 Billion.

**On the telecommunication industry**

Similar to the softdrinks industry, the telecom companies claim zero-rated as well as VAT exempt sales and large amounts of input tax. Such claims must be carefully reviewed by the BIR to plug unjustified claims.

To elucidate on this point, let us consider the fiscal year 1999 total input tax claimed by PLDT that amounted to P786,954,370.22 while VAT paid to BOC amounted to P44, 533,814 or a difference of P742,420,556.20 which can be translated to local purchases in the amount of P7,424,205,562.20. The zero-rated sales amount to P9.8369 Billion and exempt sales amounting to P2.065 Billion must be reviewed. Other than this, to ensure the collection of appropriate taxes, the volume of prepaid cards manufactured and sold should be closely monitored.

**On the cement industry**

The bulk of industry raw materials are limestone and power, which are non-VATable items. Maximum input tax should be 2% giving a net VAT of 8%. From the period January to October 2001, the recorded production of cement totaled P240,639,300 bags. The prevailing wholesales price for the same period was P125-P130 per bag. Sales then at P120 per bag price would amount to P28.876 Billion. Given an 8% net the output VAT should then be P2.310 Billion however the VAT paid to the BIR amounted to only P1.250 Billion. This manifests a shortfall in payment by P1.060 billion. It is therefore, imperative that the BIR must review the P16.37 Billion worth of VATable goods and services logged by the players.

**On the individual income tax**

It would appear that the wealth of our nation today lies on the hands of our salaried individuals. This was not the case several years ago wherein the then Secretary Virata has pronounced that 90% of the wealth of our country in the hands of 10% of our people. No matter how glaring the wide disparity in income levels between the rich and the average salaried employees tax payments does not reflect this. For FY 2001, withholding tax from employees amounted to P66.303 Billion while income tax paid by the rich amounted to only P4.15 Billion.

Basing on the collection figures of individual income, it would appear that there are only few individuals who can be considered to belong to the higher income strata. However, NSO data does not support these facts since the records show that there are 330,000 Filipino families earning P500,000 or more. This is further strengthened by the fact that there are 2,711,044 privately owned cars registered with the LTO.
The rich and the famous are negative to transparency on income tax payments for fear of being kidnapped. They are not afraid of kidnappers while staying in multi-million homes, having several cars, being members of exclusive clubs and children enrolled in exclusive schools. Their fear of being embarrassed for short tax payments is the more acceptable reason for their opposition.

**On smuggling**

Smuggling is a long standing problem that has drained our government with the much-needed revenues. It has caused a significant loss in tariff revenues and also tax revenues (i.e. non payment of VAT and other taxes for smuggled goods). Smuggling can either direct or technical. Direct smuggling occurs when smuggled goods are unloaded in ports other than the port of entry. Technical smuggling occurs when the value of imported goods passing through the port of entry is misdeclared or undervalued. To curb direct smuggling, the Philippine Coast Guard should be given sufficient appropriation for the purchase of amphibian planes. A vessel carrying smuggled goods that will be intercepted by the PCG is enough to cover the cost of these amphibian planes.

To address the problem of technical smuggling, all imports must be covered with Letters of Credit. However, advance payment of taxes must be removed. All imports without Letter of Credit is considered smuggled.

This Representation has long been espousing transparency and benchmarking as practical solutions to our revenue generation problems. It is indeed of utmost importance that we direct all our concerted efforts in raising the much needed revenues so we will be able to finance our government's operations. If the government cannot stop smuggling nor collect 80 to 90% of potential revenue, the only alternative is to reduce government expenditures to control the budget deficit. But this, in effect, would undermine the government's development goals and delivery of essential public services. We don't want this to happen so now is the time to act before it's too late.

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By Congressman Herminio Teves,
et al.

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# Comelec drops plans for voters' list-up

**By Blanche S. Rivera**

THE COMMISSION on Elections has dropped its plans to conduct a national computerized registration of voters to cleanse the voters' list in time for the 2004 presidential election.

The poll body will instead propose to Congress a "validation of registration" that it said would cost only around P1 billion.

The Comelec said junking the old voters' list and conducting a new list-up would be very expensive and not a very practical option at this time in the face of the runaway budget deficit.

Comelec chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. said a draft bill would be submitted to the House of Representatives seeking an amendment of the Omnibus Election Code to pave the way for the validation of registration.

Under the system, all registered voters would have to appear before the Election Registration Board to have their pictures, fingerprints and personal data verified and encoded in a database.

Registered voters who fail to present themselves to the ERB "without justifiable reason" will be removed from the list.

The country has around 36 million registered voters, a figure questioned by some Comelec commissioners because of the presence of "multiple registrants" that are being used for fraud.

An explanatory note to the Comelec draft bill said the validation of registration would "provide an alternative option that will cost less but ensure the integrity of the voters' list."

Abalos had originally proposed a computerized general registration of voters to create a new voters' list to eliminate cheating in the polls, which he said was the biggest problem in the electoral system.

His original proposal would have cost around P2.5 billion. The Comelec is borrowing P5 billion from the Development Bank of the Philippines to support its modernization projects.

Abalos, a ruling Lakas-NUCD party stalwart, is confident that the Comelec can get a member of Congress to sponsor the bill.

He said the Department of Science and Technology has said the technology for the proposed system was feasible.

## Absentee voting to cost P6.6B

IT will cost the government more than P6.6 billion to carry out the absentee voting exercise for the estimated four million Filipinos abroad, assuming the bill passes Congress in time for the elections in 2004.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Blas Ople said P6.630 billion would be needed for the information campaign, the registration of voters and the casting of ballots.

Ople, who has just returned from a Southeast Asian tour, said additional personnel would also be needed for the country's 60 embassies and 18 consulates abroad.

Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Art Brion, who served as one of Ople's deputies when he was a Marcos-era labor minister, will take charge of overseeing the absentee voting.

Ople said Brion would be studying how the overseas polling system can be implemented cleanly and credibly.

The Absentee Voting Bill was one of the measures approved in a rump session of the Senate last June.

The rump session was called by opposition senators constituting themselves as a "new majority."

The bill's approval by the rump session was declared void after the ruling party again seized the majority in the chamber soon after Congress reopened in late July.

Its passage is expected soon, however. *Norman Bordadora*

## Rogers burial

COL. (ret.) Joe M. Rogers, one of the first and most decorated pilots of the Philippine Air Force, will be buried with military honors at the Manila Memorial Park at noon tomorrow following a mass at the Don Bosco chapels at 8:30 a.m.

Novena prayers will be held in his memory at 40 Stella Maris St., Barangay Kapitolyo, Pasig City, tel. 632-77-10.

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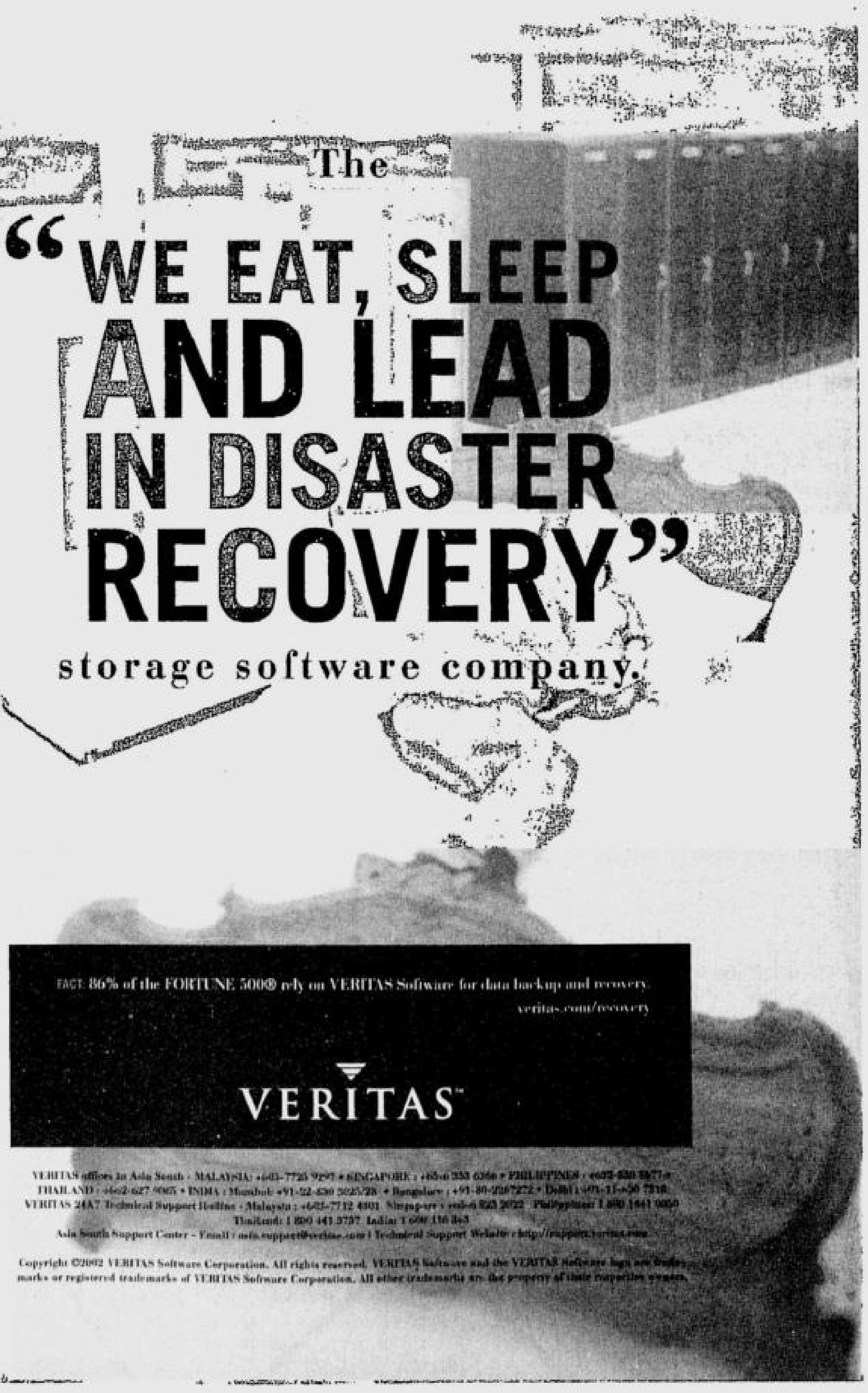
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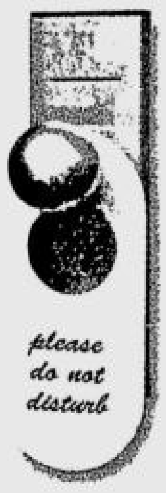

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# The 2004 factor

**EDITORIAL**

LAST week, in a moment of disarming candor, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye conceded that the series of high-profile resignations that rocked the administration in the last two months had Malacañang worried.

"Some of the resignations are not of the President's making. Some of them could not be helped," Bunye said. "But definitely it will be better for stability if this trend does not continue."

He was referring, of course, to the resignations of Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. from the Department of Foreign Affairs, former presidential candidate Raul Roco from the Department of Education and lawyer-accountant Rene Bañez from the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

He was right on the money, too. The administration should feel rattled. Guingona and Roco were the most prominent members of the President's Cabinet (they were sitting senators when asked to join her official family), while Bañez enjoyed the distinction of being the only administration official defended by name in a State of the Nation Address. Only a few months ago, political analysts would have excluded them from any list of officials most likely to be affected by an administration revamp. Their resignation thus raises all the wrong questions at the wrong time: Does the administration have the political will to tame spending and boost revenue? Is President Macapagal-Arroyo maneuvering to undermine potential political rivals? Has she, finally, turned her back on her allies in the People Power movement?

The questions have one thing in common: the so-called 2004 factor. This is clearest in the second question, the one prompted by Roco's abrupt resignation. It looks likely that the whole marginal-note-on-graft-complaint story was fed to a willing press corps, precisely to provoke the impulsive education secretary to resign on a "point of honor." But the other resignations also have 2004 written all over it. Revenue collection—or the lack of it—has election implications, as any congressman worth his pork barrel knows only too well. And replacing the man who jumpstarted the anti-Estrada movement with the man whose political engine was famously on idle during the Estrada impeachment sends political signals that are too broad to miss.

But before these questions can even be answered, another, potentially more troubling issue has reared its head. So-called civil society is reconsidering its working relationship with the President.

We are talking about the self-described middle forces which mustered the will to push the impeachment complaint against Estrada in Congress, kept close watch over the Blue Ribbon hearings and the trial proper and, beginning on the night of the infamous 11-10 vote in the Senate, flooded the intersection of Edsa and Ortigas Avenue with hundreds of thousands of warm bodies.

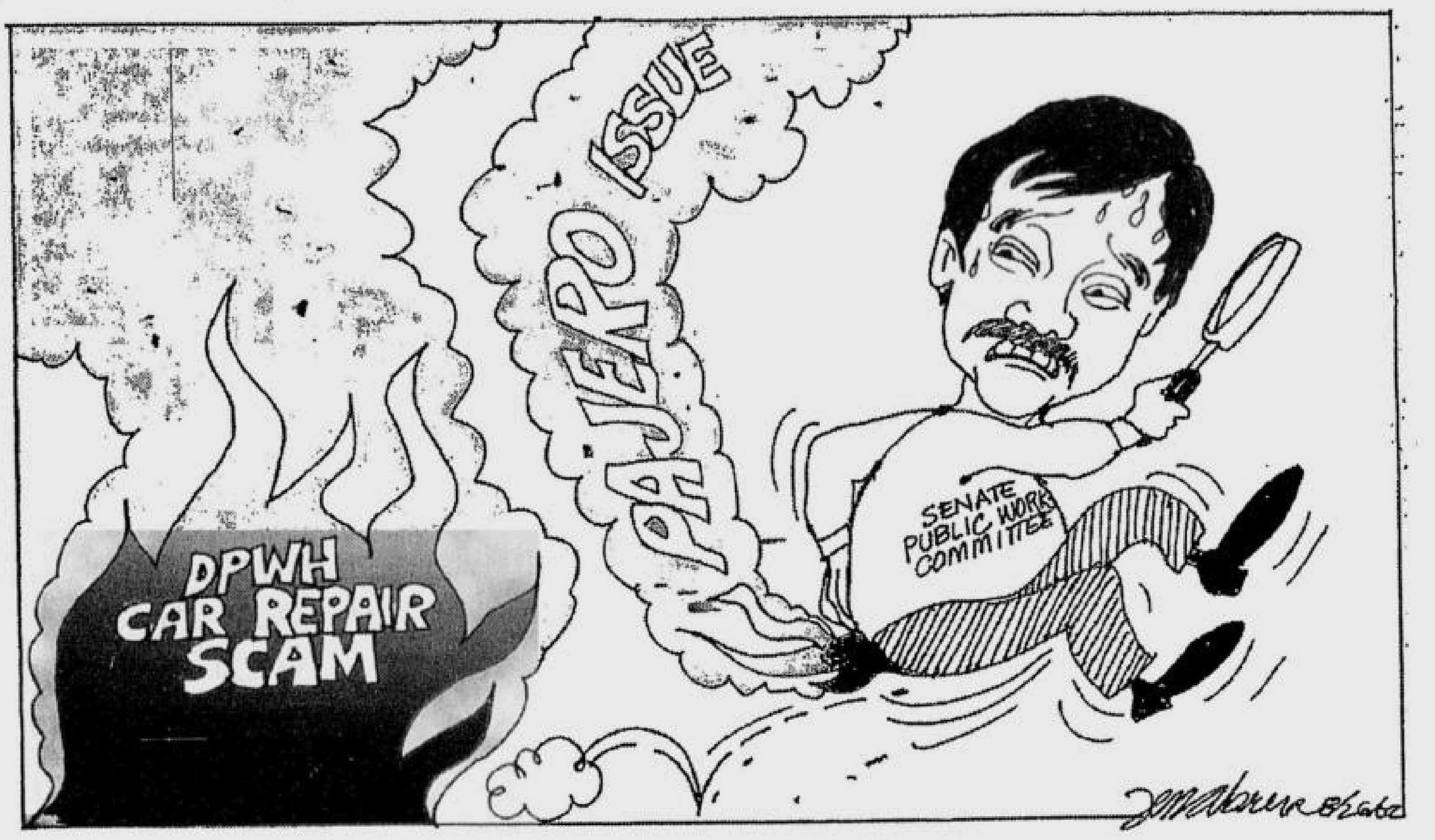
In the past several weeks, at least three major, no-holds-barred meetings have been held involving civil society representatives both in and out of government. The meetings—really more like extended soul-searching sessions—have sought to define the "bottom lines" of the middle forces: the proverbial line in the sand, beyond which support for the Macapagal administration will no longer hold.

To be sure, the "bottom lines" are a work in progress, and civil society is a diverse lot; its members will likely have varying levels of patience. There may, in fact, be no one single flashpoint issue. But the sessions have been held precisely because of the 2004 factor: the reformist bloc within the administration thinks that the group tasked (informally?) to plan the President's campaign in the next election has—by all counts—become the dominant power in Malacañang.

There is, of course, nothing wrong per se in running for reelection. The only question is: Is the President prepared to turn her back on the people who helped bring her to power, and thus to junk the reform agenda, simply to win a full term in Malacañang on her own terms?

The internal debate among civil society representatives may be summarized succinctly: Is First Gentleman Mike Arroyo the "Achilles heel" of the President, or does he have her "tacit approval" for his electioneering agenda?

The answer may determine the timing of the next rash of resignations.



# NEA defying President on rehab of ECs

## AS I SEE IT

*Neal H. Cruz*

FORMER PRESIDENT Fidel V. Ramos warned that he would "have a story to tell" if the Senate were to investigate him for the contracts he signed with the independent power producers (IPPs), the principal reason for the present high power rates. Presumably, this story is about certain shady deals perpetrated by some people when he, Ramos, was President. The message is clear: investigate me and I will open a can of worms and drag other people down with me—or something to that effect. That is supposed to discourage the senators from going through with the investigation?

Which leads us to a lot of questions. If President Ramos knew then that shady deals were going on, why is he going to speak out only now? Why didn't he denounce them then? Or why didn't he stop it? He was the President, it was his duty to prevent illegal acts from being committed. It was his duty to prosecute illegal acts. Why didn't he? Why is he threatening to expose these things only now that there are plans to investigate him? Are there senators involved so that they would abort the investigation because their role in the shenanigans would be revealed by Ramos? Why did he hide these illegalities from the public? Isn't this a betrayal of the public trust? Isn't it a betrayal of his oath of office?

These questions have aroused the curiosity of the public. All the details must be ventilated for greater transparency. The Senate should push ahead with the investigation with all speed and let Ramos tell his story. If it continues to pussyfoot, the only conclusion is that some senators are somehow involved in something shameful. Who they are, only Ramos knows. And as long as they're not yet identified, every senator would be under suspicion.

* * *

**Why did the Department of Public Works and Highways give Sen. Ramon Revilla a million-peso Pajero? Does the law allow it to give Pajeros as gifts to senators? That Revilla is chair of the Senate committee on public works gives the gift-giving a taint of conflict of interest. It is tantamount to a bribe. Revilla does not need another vehicle. He already has several of his own. Why would the DPWH gift him with a Pajero if it is not to get in his good graces? And besides bribery—for both giver and receiver—isn't this estafa through misappropriation of public funds?**

* * *

How can President Macapagal-Arroyo build a "strong republic" when she can't even make her subordinates obey her orders? For example, the National Electrification Administration (NEA) under its administrator, Catholic priest-on-leave Fr. Francisco Silva, is stalling on the executive order that would condone the loans and strengthen and rehabilitate the country's 119 rural electric cooperatives (ECs). Last Friday, the President announced that her government would condone the P18 million worth of debts owed to the government by the ECs. But she missed the June 26, 2002 deadline by four months, which is mandated by the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira) or RA 9136. She still has to issue the executive order for the restructuring of the ECs. The Department of Energy has been trying to hammer out the wordings of the EO in the last four months but the end is not yet in sight. Reason: Father Silva is opposing the EO.

The President's instruction is to put stringent conditions for efficiency improvement that will be imposed on the ECs before their loan condonation, otherwise, they would be back to where they were and the P18-billion debt which the taxpayers absorbed would just be wasted. The debt write-off is supposed to improve the efficiency of the ECs and reduce power rates for the six million households serviced by these ECs.

But Father Silva—who evidently continues to have control over the three Cebu ECs—has been maneuvering to loosen the conditions as desired by the general managers of the 119 ECs. Whenever pressed to finalize the conditions, Father Silva argued that he needed to consult the general managers who obviously do not want to be subjected to any firm conditions. In a consultation with power industry players, the President made it emphatically clear to Father Silva, who was giving another excuse, that the country needs to put stringent conditions for the improvement of the ECs in exchange for the condonation of their P18 billion debt.

The bigger conflict, however, is in the direction of EC rehabilitation between the President and the DOE on one hand and Father Silva and a group of NEA old guards on the other. The DOE has been seeking new approaches to the operational and financial problems of the ECs. It has been working with the World Bank on a three-year study on alternatives for financial and management solutions. The WB recommended the introduction on investment management contracts or IMCs, as a vehicle for the infusion of private management expertise and financing.

Since Father Silva took over as its administrator, NEA's deputy administrator for coop development, Edith Bueno, has steadfastly sat on the IMC initiative despite DOE follow-ups. Instead, Father Silva has been backing another initiative called the Rural Electrification Finance Corp. (REFC) which is actually not a bad idea and can complement other financing schemes except that it is seeking from the NEA a collateral-sharing agreement that will make it the de-facto exclusive lender to ECs. The preferential treatment would preempt the entry of other financing options for the ECs, including the IMCs endorsed by the President and the DOE.

Father Silva surreptitiously signed a memorandum of understanding for the REFC agreement without seeking NEA board approval as required by PD 269. If given the exclusive collateral rights, the REFC and the NEA's old guards behind it will effectively perpetuate the failed management and control system currently in place in the 119 ECs.

# Lessons

## THERE'S THE RUB

*Conrado de Quiros*

HB 4955, a bill offering to punish medical malpractice, wilted in the bud in Congress last week. No one voted for it, not even Ted Failon, who had been exceptionally earnestly pushing for it on radio, along with Korina Sanchez. Its death however is not a cause for saying all's well that ends well. We would do well to heed its lessons, and there's a couple in particular to be drawn from it.

The first is that cures must never be worse than the disease. That is what HB 4955 is, a cure that's worse than the disease. The disease of medical malpractice, or probably more accurately medical negligence, is real. I myself suspect it is more prevalent than reported. I've had occasion too in the past to fulminate against it, having personally known people who were victims of it.

The son-in-law of Kumander Bilog died many years ago from it. From what I recall, he was hospitalized from some stomach complaint, had an operation and died after developing gas and suffocating. Several other people had also complained to me then about being worse off than they were before medical treatment. At about the same time, several articles appeared in Cebu newspapers reporting an unusual rash of people dying or getting injuries from, among others, wrong doses of anesthesia, wrong prescriptions, being left unattended by nurses in some hospitals. One reason for it apparently was doctors and hospitals taking in more patients than they could attend to.

But HB 4955 doesn't make things better, it makes things worse. It turns doctors into The Enemy. Indeed, more than doctors the medical profession itself, including dentists, nurses and therapists. They now have to be guarded like prisoners in a stalag. Anyone found guilty of malpractice, defined loosely as injury or death "caused by the negligent or wrongful act or omission," will be "punished by *prision mayor* and the cancellation of the license to practice and a fine ranging from P500,000 to one millions pesos." *Prision mayor* is six to 20 years, which is what you give for manslaughter.

Will this improve medical service? Obviously not. You put doctors under the gun, expecting nothing less than perfection—you strike once, and you're out, quite literally: out of the profession and inside a jail cell—and you will have more doctors with hands that shake. If indeed you will find many of them left. The 19 percent of the population that wants to leave the country is largely A and B. I'd wager a great many of them are doctors and nurses. You have a law like this, which is far harsher than the American one, and you will have more doctors and nurses forgetting patriotism and abandoning ship.

Minguita Padilla, a doctor, points out as well the other mortal dangers of the bill in an impassioned defense of her profession. You have a bill like this, and you will jack up the cost of medicine. Medical practitioners will be forced to take out medical insurance, and pass the added cost to patients. Only the insurance companies, in fact, who have suspiciously been batting for the bill, gain from it. You have a bill like this, doctors and nurses will stop doing outreach work. If you can be sued while using crude instruments to treat patients in the worst of conditions, you won't bother doing it. And you have a bill like this, you will insist on a barrage of tests before treating a patient to cover your ass. That will make treatment more expensive and less prompt.

There's one more point, and that is the psychological aspect of it. Where our loved ones are concerned, we will always have the most unreasonable expectations from God and doctors, who are not always one and the same. We will demand nothing less than the restoration to wholeness of those who often cannot be restored to it, and will rail when it doesn't happen. Some of us will rail at God, others will rail at their doctors. You can only raise a fist at heaven, but, with a bill like this, you can always raise a hammer at doctors. Well, there is one other winner in this, who are the lawyers.

Thank God the bill didn't pass. Which brings me to the other lesson to be gained from it. That is that a public servant may never be a media practitioner at the same time. I've always railed at this, and this case pretty much clinches my argument.

Sanchez and Failon have been plugging for the bill on radio exceptionally earnestly as I said. Sanchez is not a public official, but Failon is. As is Noli de Castro, who has filed a bill in the Senate calling for compulsory medical malpractice insurance. Failon is a congressman and De Castro a senator. They have no business being in media (De Castro remains ensconced in "Magandang Gabi, Bayan") and I cannot understand why ABS-CBN continues to give them a spot. It is unethical in the extreme. You cannot be contestant and juror at the same time. You cannot be defendant and judge at the same time. You cannot propose a bill in the House or Senate and decree it with all the presumed objectivity, neutrality and dispassion of a journalist to be the best thing that's happened to us. Conflict of interest cannot be more clearly etched on tablet.

Sanchez is not a government official, but she herself may wish to exercise more restraint, particularly on matters of life and death, which is literally the case here. The issue of medical malpractice is far too important to be reduced to a battle of wills, or worse, a conflict of egos. It deserves serious and sober attention. ABS-CBN in particular offering an awesome means for reaching the public, its personnel would do well to discover the wonders of humility.

Take it from Spiderman's uncle: To whom much power is given, much responsibility is expected.

* * *

*Comments to dequiros@vasia.com*

# Separating the innocent from the guilty

## POLITICAL TIDBITS

*Belinda Olivares-Cunanan*

I HAVE nothing but admiration for the work of Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo, starting from his role in the impeachment trial in the Senate last December 2000 to January 2001; but I must confess that I don't feel good about the spirited push to have him appointed as ombudsman. It is not that he would not be up to the job. It's the perception that the influence and power over this administration of what used to be the Carpio Villaraza law office, where lawyer Marcelo came from, would become even more tremendous with his appointment. In the end, this perception would hamper his work in that super-powerful post.

* * *

**The closeness of the Villaraza law office to the First Couple is well known; with Marcelo as ombudsman, the perception would be that the First Couple is ensuring the protection of their welfare even after the President leaves office. The perception about this law office being *malakas* first stirred with the appointment of partner Avelino "Nonong" Cruz, as legal adviser of President Macapagal. This was further strengthened with the appointment of the senior partner, former Ramos legal adviser and GMA appointee to the Petron board, Antonio Carpio, to the post of associate justice of the Supreme Court. In addition, a number of lesser lights from the Sigma Rho fraternity, to which all these prominent lawyers belong, were put in good positions in the administration.**

* * *

Recently, the name of Court of Appeals associate justice Conchita Carpio (UP College of law '68) was included by the Judicial and Bar Council in its list of nine recommendations to the President for possible appointment to either of the SC's two vacancies. CA Justice Carpio is a first cousin of SC Justice Carpio and it is bruited about that he had a hand in her appointment to the CA. Such is the strong shadow being cast by SC Justice Carpio that prior to his appointment, it didn't matter that the maiden name of Ms Leny Panganiban, wife of the esteemed SC Justice Artemio Panganiban, is Carpio; now even that's being talked about, when Leny is a most private person.

A new query is being texted: will there be a "Carpio and Carpio" at the SC?

* * *

**Because I know Public Works Undersecretary Mabini Fonacier Pablo personally, I got very interested in the administrative complaint filed against him by a special investigative committee of the DPWH. He was charged with "gross neglect of duty and conduct prejudicial to the interest of the service" and suspended from office for 90 days in connection with the P139-million vehicles repair scam at the DPWH. When Pablo sent me a copy of his counter-affidavit, which he will use in this Wednesday's hearing where his testimony is being heard for the first time since he was implicated, I now realize why he is seeking outright dismissal of his case and immediate lifting of his suspension.**

* * *

Pablo argues that in his designation as undersecretary for finance, disbursements or reimbursements for repairs of DPWH motor vehicles "do not require my knowledge, participation, intervention, signature, discretion or approval." This is because, under the principle of delegation of authority operating in the government setup, DPWH orders empower assistant secretaries, directors, service chiefs and other officials to exercise discretion over procurement of supplies, materials and equipment up to P1 million, "without the necessity of requiring any higher officer, such as myself, to review such disbursements."

The various transactions currently being investigated at the DPWH involve emergency repairs of its vehicles not exceeding P25,000 each. Pablo argues that at the highest level, the officials involved in them are at least two levels beneath him; then too, the procedure does not even require that he be furnished copies of the documents relating to these transactions, and that, in fact, he was never furnished them. He also noted that despite the expertise of the internal audit service of the COA within the DPWH, the "audit vanguard of the public sector," it did not disallow any repair transactions. "It is therefore illogical and unreasonable to demand that I should have detected these alleged anomalies," he argues.

* * *

**As to the charge of command responsibility being pinned on him, Pablo cited jurisprudence that stressed that this principle applies only to individuals "who have a more knowing, personal and deliberate participation in the transactions complained of," but that in his case, he was too far removed from them by rank and level. If this principle is "unreasonably applied," he argues, it would lead to the "equally absurd conclusion" that even Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong should be held liable.**

* * *

Most thinking Filipinos are fully in support of the President's campaign to crack down on graft and corruption in the government, for they destroy the moral fiber of our people and deprive them of much-needed revenues that should rightly go to legitimate services. It's time that guilty bureaucrats are sent to jail. But there is also the constant need to see that the innocent are not implicated with the guilty.

In Pablo's case, it is interesting to note that since the committee formed by Datumanong to investigate the repairs scam began its work last January, up to the time it submitted its report to him last June, Pablo was never asked to shed light on the matter, nor was any statement taken from him. Neither did the committee report implicate him, directly or indirectly, in the scam. Yet, quite suddenly, on Aug. 7, the committee recommended him for "gross neglect" and suspension for 90 days. Where was due process? is Pablo's query. Was the indecent haste due to the desire to catch the proverbial "big fish," never mind if he's innocent?

# Bush relies on vision, not expertise

## NEWS ANALYSIS

*Alan Elsner*

WASHINGTON—In deciding whether to invade Iraq, President George W. Bush is guided by a view of the world as a battleground of good versus evil.

Admirers praise him for a clear vision that cuts through diplomatic doublespeak and moral ambiguities, but detractors say trying to run foreign policy like a Bible class may land the United States in a conflict with dangerous and unpredictable consequences.

"Some people like to sneer at Bush for what they see as his ignorance and naivete, because he sees the difference between good and evil in the world," said Danielle Pletka, vice president for foreign and defense studies at the American Enterprise Institute, a think-tank that is home to several influential voices supporting an Iraq invasion. "The idea that someone is a simpleton because he sees the United States as a force for good is insulting."

On the other side, Los Angeles Times columnist Robert Scheer recently wrote that it was time for Bush to forgo the "biblical allegories of good and evil and recognize that in the 21st century, smiting one's enemies is an elusive goal requiring patience and subtlety, as well as timely heroics." Campaigning for the presidency in 2000, Bush never pretended to be a foreign policy expert but said his inability to remember the names of leaders of such nations as India and Pakistan was less important than his overarching vision.

Bush was hardly the first US president to take office without much foreign policy expertise.

"I don't think that ignorance is ever an advantage but the fact is that the US political system often brings presidents to the White House who don't know much about foreign policy," said Walter Russell Mead of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Some, like Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton, immerse themselves in the details, eventually becoming experts in their own right. Others, like Ronald Reagan, stick to the big picture and leave the details to others. Both approaches have had their successes and failures.

Character, competence, the ability to manage and to articulate your policy are clearly more important than expertise," said James Gibney, executive editor of Foreign Affairs magazine. "It helps to have a vision of the way the world works.

Experts can provide the expertise."

Bush won almost universal praise for his response to the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on Sept. 11 when he rallied the nation and much of the world with bold rhetoric and firm resolve.

He spoke in words that every American could understand.

Osama bin Laden, the Saudi militant accused of masterminding the attacks, was not merely an enemy—he was "the evil one." The war on terrorism, became, in Bush's words, "a struggle for civilization itself." But Bush's efforts to extend that same unequivocal rhetoric to Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein have so far failed to get the same response, although he is yet to make the case for an all-out war.

A Gallup Poll released Friday found that support for an invasion of Iraq had fallen from 74 percent in November to 53 percent now.

Bush has also been unable to impose discipline on either his administration or his Republican Party, which both appear to have divided into pro- and anti-war factions engaged in an increasingly nasty public battle.

Few in America would dispute Bush's assertion that Saddam is evil. However, there is already no shortage of voices pointing out the many risks and complications of an invasion. Among them are: the danger of taking heavy casualties; of dragging US troops into a quagmire from which it will take years to emerge; of blowing a massive hole in the US domestic budget; of destabilizing the Middle East; of prompting Saddam to fire chemical or biological weapons at Israel; of stoking more Arab fury and more terrorism; of alienating important allies; and of encouraging other nations to launch their own preemptive attacks on enemies.

Bush admirers see parallels between him and Reagan, who they believe paved the way to victory in the Cold War over the Soviet Union, which Reagan called the "evil empire." But Bush has found it hard to impose a single standard on the world. He has berated some countries for their failure to practice democracy while turning a blind eye to others whose cooperation is essential to the war on terrorism, notably Pakistan and former Soviet republics in Central Asia.

"I think his foreign policy is fairly muddled. He's doing what many presidents have done in the past, applying different standards to different situations," said Gibney.

Bush's desire to cut through complications to the heart of an issue and emerge with a bold, strong stance has also been on display in the Arab-Israeli conflict, an immensely complex clash of competing rights and wrongs that stretch back for more than a century.

The president has come down firmly on the Israeli side, calling on the Palestinians to dump their leader Yasser Arafat, who Bush says is hopelessly corrupt, untrustworthy and implicated in violence. But words have not been followed up by much concrete action. *Reuters*

# Repair the damage to the science curriculum

## COMMENTARY

*Dean Jorge Bocobo*

CURRENTLY on nationwide pilot-testing by the Department of Education, the ultimate fate of the 2002 Basic Education Curriculum (BEC) is now in question, because the pilot, Raul Roco, parachuted out shortly after take-off and has already been replaced by Edilberto de Jesus. The new secretary must not allow the 2002 BEC to pass into bureaucratic semi-permanence next year without review and major repairs. For it is a vessel with big holes in the hull and a lot of deadweight political cargo.

First, there is no more science subject for Filipinos in Grades 1 and 2 of public elementary schools, because the 2002 BEC outrageously deletes them from the curriculum altogether, a whopping 33 percent reduction in grade school science. Second, all four high school science subjects, (earth science, biology, chemistry and physics), have suffered massive reductions of 25 percent in allocated classroom time, from 80 minutes to 60 minutes daily, effectively cutting out essential lab study time. Meanwhile, in the deceptively named "Makabayan" subject area are some subjects that have "extracurricular" written all over them. Together, these aspects of 2002 BEC constitute a form of economic self-sabotage.

The cuts are very real and they will have long-term adverse effects. With 25 percent less contact time for science subjects in high school, it is as if a whole year of science study is now lost. Some preparation for college! Also, does anyone think there will now be a surge of interest in becoming high school science teachers and lab instructors, given the reductions? Who wants to be an early education science teacher now that there is no science subject at all taught in Grades 1 and 2? Who will want to invest time and money to author and publish new science textbooks and lab manuals, when there is that much less demand?

This "restructuring" works out to some one billion hours that teachers won't be teaching, and students won't be studying science subjects. It is a major setback for our education strategy. These are the very subjects that guarantee the jobs and industries of the future, as everyone else in the world seems to know. Perhaps in our obsession to be unique, we stubbornly want these subjects to be optional, not the least for being difficult to both study and teach. Well, the 2002 BEC is certainly unique in the world in this respect. It effectively de-emphasizes science as an educational tool for national competitiveness and personal upliftment, unlike most countries which recognize how important technical skills are. Even if that is not the intention of its framers, that is the actual effect. It doesn't increase confidence in the DepEd either that they have withdrawn Philippine participation from international testing of math, science and reading literacy skills. For how do we know if the curriculum changes are working if we don't participate in testing? Can you run a school without exams?

"So what?" Many parents and readers of this newspaper may be saying to themselves, "My kids all go to Saint Someone Private Catholic School. They teach all those hard science and math subjects up and down the grade levels. What do I care what happens at the Andres Bonifacio Elementary School? So what if the DepEd degrades science teaching in favor of patriotic or political propaganda? At my kids' school, even Father Katolico and Sister Nunn believe that my kids have got to know molecules and mathematics, on top of religion and values. Or else, they will probably have to send my grandchildren to a public school, which only the poverty of the uneducated, or the luckless, forces on the unfortunate majority."

Ah, but this is where many parents who send their kids to private schools would be wrong in being indifferent to the plight of public schools. The private education system of the Philippines is not insulated from the public school system. It is a rare Catholic school, only the biggest and most prestigious, that can afford to have a curriculum that is substantially different from the official DepEd curriculum, and only when they exceed it.

Most private schools still look to the DepEd for leadership and guidance on the matter of what to teach, scope and sequence, and what competencies students are expected to have at the end. The DepEd policies materially affect all schools. Even schedules and calendars are synchronized.

Most people don't realize that a curriculum change like the 2002 BEC is not just a formality. It initiates a complex process in which significant human and material resources are reorganized, reallocated and redeployed. The whole process is slow and tedious and cannot be undertaken lightly. New schedules and assignments must be hammered out. New lesson plans and teaching methods must be adopted under training and supervision. New textbooks, teachers guides, student and lab manuals have to be evaluated and developed. Hundreds of thousands of teachers and administrators, in thousands of public and private schools are involved, plus hundreds of government agencies and private companies that directly or indirectly service education. Only once in a decade is it even practical to contemplate such a major move. The last time something as big as the 2002 BEC happened was in the late '80s, with the adoption of the current high school curriculum.

The important thing is that the smallest detail in the curriculum can have a potentially huge effect on the overall outcome. If the damage to the science part of the basic education curriculum is not repaired, we won't even know for years, how royally we have skewered ourselves.

* * *

*Comments to deanjbocobo@yahoo.com*

# Is Kris-Joey affair front-page material?

## READERS' ADVOCATE

*Raul J. Palabrica*

LOOKING at the contents of the front page of the Aug. 21 issue of the INQUIRER, it is apparent the newspaper was paying tribute to the late Sen. Ninoy Aquino on the occasion of his 19th death anniversary.

The banner read "No need for Joey at Ninoy rites—GMA." Right under the headline was a photo of Aquino holding a microphone and two stories about his letters to business tycoon Enrique Zobel and former Tourism Secretary Jose Antonio Gonzales.

At the right-hand side of the front page was a half-page, full-length shot of Aquino's controversial daughter, Kris, which was taken when she arrived from a weeklong vacation in the United States. Below her photo was a summary of the e-mail received by INQ7.net criticizing her for maintaining questionable relations with a married man.

The play-up given by the newspaper on Kris' affair with Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez did not sit well with some readers. A group of employees of a garments company wrote: "When we read your front page today we thought we bought the wrong newspaper. We did not expect the most popular broadsheet in the country to follow the style of the tabloids and movie magazines that waste precious ink and paper on the useless antics of movie stars.

"What is so special about the Joey Marquez and Kris Aquino affair that you have to feature it on the front page? Their love story does not have any national significance or value to us. Who cares if those two overage people see each other at the burial ground of Ninoy Aquino?

"We do not know what criteria you used in deciding that this love affair between two consenting, but scandalous, adults should merit headline treatment, to the exclusion of other more important issues of the day.

"Sir, will you please tell us where to go for the refund of the P15 we paid for your newspaper today? It was not worth the money we paid for it. Is it okay if we send our request for reimbursement to Kris Aquino since she is the only one who profited most from your newspaper?"

### Public figure

According to the editor in chief, she gave premium treatment to l'affaire Kris for two reasons: first, Malacañang contributed to the controversy on the possible appearance of Marquez at the site of the commemoration rites in his capacity as mayor of the place where the cemetery is located.

It will be recalled that earlier the Office of the Press Secretary announced that Marquez might attend the rites as part of his ceremonial duty to welcome the President when she visits his area of governance.

Later, the press office backtracked and said the event was a private affair and therefore the Aquino family had the right to invite whoever they wanted to or exclude those whose presence they do not like. The change of heart was apparently caused by former President Cory Aquino's remark that Marquez was not included in the guest list for that day.

Since Malacañang is considered a primary source of news, its involvement in the invitation hullabaloo justified the front-page and banner treatment of Marquez's "dis-invitation" from the ceremonial rites.

Second, Kris is a public figure whose actions are matters of public interest. The editor in chief explained that the focus on Kris was meant to show to the public the grave disservice she was doing to her father's legacy to the nation. She did not live up to the people's expectation that, following her father's example, she would act with decency and dignity in her public behavior.

The spotlight treatment of Kris was aimed at bringing to the readers' attention the irony of things: while the ideals for which Ninoy died for were being relived, her daughter was doing something that goes against those ideals.

### Evaluation

I have some reservations about the reasons cited by the editor in chief for giving top billing to the Joey-Kris affair in the Aug. 21 issue of the INQUIRER. In my opinion, the "Malacañang factor" does not justify the front-page feature. There were instances in the past when the presidential office was involved in the shaping of news, but the underlying events were reported in the inside pages of the newspaper.

Not everything that Malacañang or the President has a hand in is front-page material. Only those events that have a significant impact on the lives of the Filipinos deserve to be published on the first page that most readers look at when they receive their newspaper.

Whether or not Marquez would gatecrash the commemoration rites, or how Ms Cory Aquino would react if she saw him at the grave of her late husband, or what scene Marquez and Kris would make if they "accidentally" bumped into each other at the cemetery would be of no importance at all to the majority of Filipinos whose primary concern nowadays is how to survive the hard times.

A review of the Aug. 21 issue shows that there were two other events that could have been considered for premium treatment. These are the increase in the losses from the LandBank tax diversion scam to P432 million and the exodus from Malaysia of the Filipinos who illegally entered that country using rickety boats. The Filipinos were being compared to the Vietnamese "boat people" who left their country many years ago to escape communist rule.

I think between the news about the adulterous caper of Kris and the suffering of the modern-day Filipino "boat people," the latter deserves bold headlines and dramatic photos. The sad plight of our compatriots who had to flee Malaysia in haste has a higher news value compared to the story of two adults who do not know to control their hormones.

### Footnote

In my Aug. 12 article ("Irreverent cartoon"), I apologized for an editorial cartoon that made fun of our national flag by substituting squatter huts, garbage and national calamities for the sun, stars and colors.

Consistent with my practice in the past whenever I admitted to mistakes by the newspaper in news and photos, I did not mention the name of the artist who drew the controversial cartoon. I believe the identity of the erring reporter or artist is no longer material in an admission of error.

The INQUIRER has two cartoonists in its roster. In fairness to the innocent cartoonist, who became the subject of queries from his friends and admirers, I would like to disclose that the cartoonist who drew the irreverent cartoon is Pol Medina.

* * *

*The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.*

# Teachers' pay at ISM not discriminatory

AS the former president of the Board of Trustees of International School in Manila Inc. (ISM), I have done my best to avoid participating in the media blitz that the International School Alliance of Educators has launched over recent months. But some of the statements of Luz Cayabyab in her letter (PDI, 8/6/02) are so devoid of fact and so far from reality that they really cannot be allowed to stand uncorrected:

Fact 1. The principle of offering a differentiated salary rate for local and foreign-hired employees was not invented by ISM. It is standard practice in schools (and businesses and diplomatic missions) throughout Asia, Africa, East Europe and South Central America. It reflects a simple market truth: that in order to attract teacher candidates in Europe and North America, the school needs to offer a fairly higher salary than is necessary to be attractive to candidates here in the Philippines.

Fact 2. The differential salary was not based on nationality or race but rather on point-of-hire. Cayabyab wants to highlight that the Filipino teacher is discriminated against on racial grounds. This is a complete fiction—and I write this as a Filipino who would not for a moment associate with an institution that discriminates against my fellow countrymen. When ISM had a differentiated salary scale, it paid all locally hired teachers, whether American, British, Japanese or any other nationality, exactly the same as Filipinos. There has always been a large contingent of such local-hire foreigners working at ISM. More than 10 percent of the union members carry foreign passports.

Fact 3. The Supreme Court ruled that there should be no salary differential based on point-of-hire, and the school promptly complied. But doing so, it created a massive deficit for itself that it could only clear by making significant increases in tuition fees. That is not enough for Cayabyab. Although as a rule any decision made by the Supreme Court is prospective, the union of which she is president is now claiming five years and more of back pay (an, since the teachers are taxed on their salaries, paid on their behalf by ISM, five years and more of income tax to be paid by the school). Aside from this, she wants all the commutative benefits to be retrospective and all of the pensions recalibrated.

Fact 4. In order to stay competitive with the regional and domestic international schools, ISM had to upgrade its facilities. In Cayabyab's opinion, the school should not have built a new facility but stayed on a second-rate site in a squalid neighborhood and diverted the fees paid by parents into even larger payouts for the local-hire teachers.

Fact 5. Even before the elimination of the point-of-hire salary differential, ISM's local-hire teachers were very well paid. Now, with many of them receiving salaries, net of tax, that amount to more than P150,000 per month, they are, in real terms, among the best-paid teachers in the world.

I am disappointed that Cayabyab chose not to include this information in her letter. She has sought to portray herself and her union as oppressed victims. I believe the facts that I have set out above clearly demonstrate that the truth could not be more different.

**—ROBERT CUENCA,**
**former president, Board of Trustees of International School Manila Inc. (ISM)**

PHILIPPINE LETTERS DAILY INQUIRER

# Uniting against smoke belchers

ALTHOUGH it is quite impossible to totally eradicate air pollution, it is refreshing to know that the government does not ignore this life-threatening issue. The most recent anti-smoke belching program sponsored by the Land Transportation Office and ABS-CBN Foundation's "Bantay Kalikasan" is an effective pursuit to apprehend smoke belchers. Called "Bantay Usok," this program allows any citizen with a mobile phone to report sightings of smoke belchers by texting the vehicle's plate number and location to a hotline. Having insufficient equipment to detect most of the emitted smoke in Metro Manila, the LTO has breathed a huge sigh of relief with the launch of "Bantay Usok," that allows accessibility to any person who has an SMS-able cellular phone to become a pro-active citizen.

Since the texting program was initiated last June 6, 2002, there have been already 34,233 texted reports, 1,578 vehicles reported to the LTO, and 714 summons sent by the LTO as of July 12. Although a vehicle would need to be reported at least five times by different civilians to be able to be alerted by the LTO, "Bantay Usok" had already organized its own apprehension team in August 2000 to perform more immediate action by confiscating license plates of offenders. This team has successfully acquired 4,367 license plates as of June 25, 2002.

I could not agree more with what "Bantay Usok" program manager Evelyn Lim Forbes said about having power in collective effort. I firmly believe that united, affirmative action is the key in resolving any issue. I truly applaud the people responsible for this program. They have somehow evoked a renewed sense of social awareness and involvement. Kudos to "Bantay Usok"!

**—DENISE SIY,**
**chynx1013@hotmail.com**

# Making 'puto' of the terrorists in our midst

"TERRORISM" and "terrorists" are not new terms in US government pronouncements. A hundred years ago, Miguel Malvar, Vicente Lukban, Simeon Ola and Macario Sakay were all branded as "terrorists" and "bandits" by US civil and military authorities in the Philippines.

Recently, US President George W. Bush and Secretary of State Colin Powell baptized the Commu ist Party of the Philippines/New People's Army/National Democratic Front as "international terrorist organization." Exploiting the Sept. 11 incident, Bush has arrogated unto himself the multiple role of accuser, judge and executioner of all those he perceives as "terrorists." This is not confined to kidnap for ransom gangs such as the Abu Sayyaf. It includes all those involved in the people's struggle against US imperialism and for national emancipation.

When an individual commits violence against innocent civilians contrary to US interests, Bush calls him a "terrorist."

When an individual commits violence against innocent civilians in furtherance of US interests, Bush calls him a "freedom fighter."

But Bush never mentions the worst form of terrorism known as "state terrorism." Supported by the resources of the state, it inflicts the worst crimes against humanity and wanton destruction of a nation's infrastructure.

The hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians who died during the Filipino-American war, in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, in Vietnam, Iraq, Yugoslavia and Afghanistan were all victims of state terrorism. US authorities have coined a euphemistic term designed to cover up the gravity of the crime. They call it "collateral damage."

US imperialism has now embarked on a new adventure in the Philippines by branding the CPP/NPA/NDF as en "international terrorist organization." This means an expansion and intensification of counterinsurgency involving US military forces as was the case in Vietnam during the Johnson-Nixon era. Bush probably believes that unlike the Vietnamese National Liberation Front, US forces this time will act as a grinding machine that will make the NDF, as they say in the vernacular, *"parang puto"*!

Since 1968, a succession of presidents, SNDs and AFP chiefs of staff had boasted that the collapse of the CPP/NPA/NDF was a certainty during the respective incumbency of Ferdinand Marcos, Cory Aquino, Fidel Ramos and Joseph Estrada. The reality is that all these presidents and their SNDs and chiefs of staff are no longer in power, while the CPP/NPA/NDF is still very much around.

Nonetheless, President Macapagal-Arroyo still asserts that the days of the CPP/NPA/NDF are numbered. Perhaps she has been assured by Bush that the "most powerful army in the world" will make these "terrorist organizations," again as they say in the vernacular, *"parang puto"*!

It may well be that the CPP/NPA/NDF will become irrelevant when the principal contradictions in Philippine society will have disappeared.

But until then, it is more likely that the long-term solution to the conflict between state power and the people's struggle will continue to elude the sophisticated analysis and "war gaming" of the "best and brightest" minds in the State Department and Pentagon, reminiscent of the American experience in the Vietnam war.

**—DAN VIZMANOS,**
**9391 Calantas St., S.A.V.,**
**Makati City**

*IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph*

*Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.*

# Absentee voting bill should be passed quickly

THE CAMPAIGN of overseas Filipinos (OFs) for the enactment of the Absentee Voting Bill (AVB) has been going on for more than a year now. However, despite the clamor which is supported by Philippine-based groups and individuals (including ex-OFWs), the proverbial light at the end of the tunnel which should enable OFs to vote starting in 2004 is still nowhere in sight. Either our lawmakers are not genuinely listening to their demands or are just pretending to be supporters of the bill.

I am no longer a migrant worker but I am angry at how this government continues to neglect, ignore and take OFs for granted. The occasional doles when OFWs come home in boxes are not enough. Neither are the token gestures especially during the Christmas season. The government should show its sincerity in thanking, honoring and heaping praises on OFs by doing things that have real meaning and substance. The immediate passage of the AVB is one.

The continued inaction of our lawmakers and the derailment or outright blocking of the passage of the bill by some of them (particularly two young lawmakers who come from rich political families) are obvious manifestations of an utter lack of respect for the millions of OFs' sacred right to suffrage.

OFs and even ex-overseas workers, are becoming more and more restless by the day and their anger and discontent will explode on the faces of these lawmakers sooner than later.

In 1999 when my group's campaign for the declaration of 2000 as OFW Year remained unheeded by Malacañang despite its objectives, I broached the idea of a remittance boycott. That was met with opposition because of the severe repercussions that it could inflict on the Philippine economy. After all, it is precisely their remittances—which this year alone is projected to reach $7 billion—that buoy our economy. If our smart lawmakers are cybersavvy, then they should know that there are now plans of pushing through with that boycott and this time OFs are dead serious in implementing it if only to show that they have had enough and are no longer taking things sitting down.

I am just an ordinary Filipino citizen, an ex-OFW, and just one tiny voice among million others demanding the OFs' right to vote. We, therefore, urge our lawmakers to pass the Absentee Voting Bill the soonest possible time and that means now!

**—RHOEL RAYMUNDO MENDOZA,**
**rhoel@compass.com.ph**

# Proper surveying

I HAVE said time and again regarding surveys being conducted left and right that the President of the Republic must never be lumped together with the senators or other public officials for that matter.

Because of the sensitivity of the office, every decision a President makes on a daily basis can swing public opinion as they see fit.

A President has to make hard decisions daily and this can affect public opinion, which can change from day to day. Thus, the seesawing results.

To be fair, a President's so-called popularity must never be surveyed together with other public of officials for to do so would be highly inaccurate. The popularity of a US president, for example, is never measured against that of the vice president, senator, or any other public official.

If they so desire, these survey companies must do a separate survey strictly for the senators and other public officials. To do otherwise is to condition the minds of the public to select whoever these survey outfits favor for the next elections. This, to me, is outright electioneering and must be prohibited by the Comelec this early or never be allowed at all. It is a form of campaigning.

For years, survey companies have exploited the vulnerability of our people who know no better.

As 2004 approaches, it's "harvest" time once again!

**—MANUEL L. MORATO, Doña Consuelo Bldg., QC**

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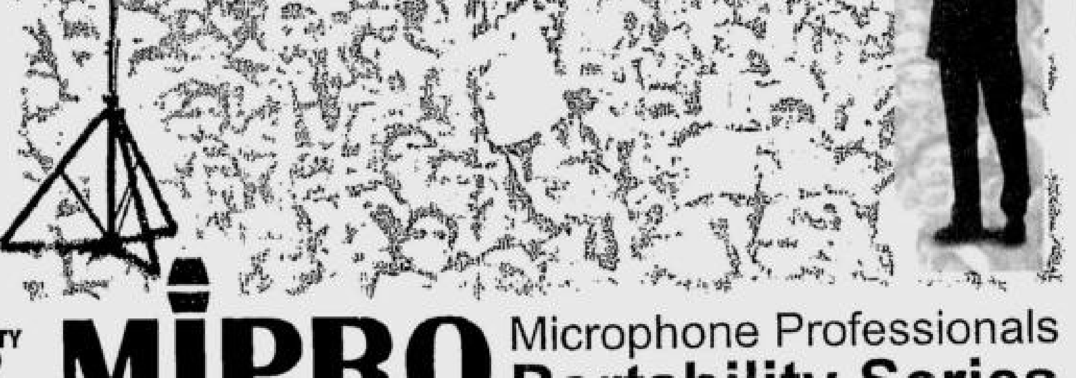

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# Ally cautions Bush on attacking Iraq

**WASHINGTON—A key political ally of George W. Bush warned Sunday against unilateral action to bring about regime change in Iraq, the latest skeptical voice to join the debate within the president's Republican party over what to do about Saddam Hussein.**

"Although the United States could certainly succeed, we should try our best not to have to go it alone, and the president should reject the advice of those who counsel doing so," former Secretary of State James Baker wrote in an opinion piece published by The New York Times.

Baker, a lawyer, who represented Bush in his legal dispute with Democrat Al Gore over the outcome of the 2000 presidential election, said the cost of going it alone in Iraq "will be much greater" than during the 1991 Gulf War.

The word of caution comes amid intensifying discussions among top members of the Bush administration and other prominent Republicans about ways of dealing with Iraq without undermining US interests in the Middle East.

Bush has declared Iraq "an axis of evil" nation and said a regime change in Baghdad was a key goal of his administration.

US officials charge Iraqi President Saddam Hussein would not hesitate using weapons of mass destruction against US interests and US allies, if he were given a chance.

But the past two weeks have seen Republican heavyweights like former National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft, ex-Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, Sen. Chuck Hagel and Rep. Dick Armey voice concern that a unilateral US military operation against Baghdad could trigger an explosion of anti-American sentiment in the region.

In addition, the latest CNN/USA Today/Gallup opinion poll showed that public support for a US ground invasion of Iraq slipped from 74 percent last November to 53 percent now. Only 20 percent of those surveyed favored sending troops to topple Saddam Hussein without allied support.

Baker, who served in the 1989-93 administration of the president's father, George Bush, rejected the argument that Iraq's 1998 decision to end UN weapons inspections was grounds enough for military action.

In his view, the United States should seek a new UN Security Council resolution requiring Iraq to submit to intrusive inspections with no exceptions and authorizing all necessary means to enforce it.

But a top Iraqi envoy made clear Saturday his government was not ready to grant UN weapons inspectors unconditional access to suspected weapons facilities.

"We are asking to have a thorough discussion on what has been implemented of all of the Security Council resolutions and what are the remaining issues," Iraqi Ambassador to the United Nations Mohammed Aldouri said on CNN.

This position remains at odds with that of the United Nations, which insists that Baghdad provide its inspectors unfettered access to any facility that could be involved in manufacturing nuclear, chemical and biological weapons—no questions asked.

The UN approach was reaffirmed by chief UN weapons inspector Hans Blix, who said in an NBC television interview that the United Nations must be able to fully reassess the situation in Iraq.

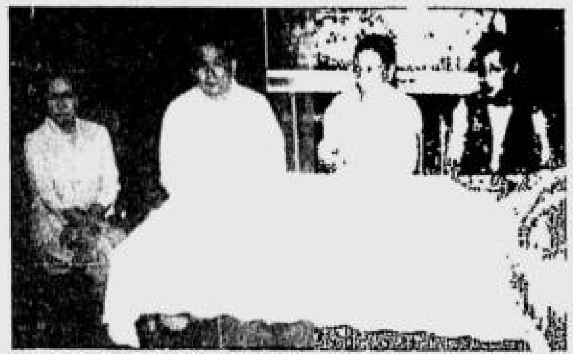
"We are saying the Security Council is interested in the situation now, four years later, and it's the Security Council that decides the issues and how we are to tackle them," Blix said.

Trying to debunk arguments used by US advocates of military invasion, Aldouri also denied his country possessed nuclear weapons or any hidden Scud missiles capable of striking Israel. *AFP*

# The Power of Three ... in One

## The Fair Way To Retailing Growth

From an industry leader in the seventies when it was founded, Fairmart has evolved into what is known as the Fair group. Composed of Fairmart, Plaza Fair and Woman to cater to specific market segments, it is in a continuing process of consolidation, where resources are selectively combined and utilized for the maximum benefit of target consumers. The power of Three Stores is One.

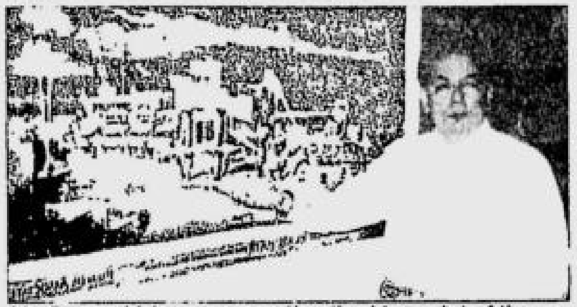


*Vivien Motomal of Launch Pad PR & Advertising; Mr. Danny Velasco – Pres. And CEO of Plaza Fair; Amy Tecson and Architect Melinda Reyes.*

The move includes a strategic outward thrust from Metro Manila while keeping its doors open to foreign alliances with market retailers. Inspired by the wisdom and business acumen of its founder, Yang Kung Yuan, considered a visionary in his time with a heart for others, his heirs, led by Mr. Daniel Velasco have initiated an aggressive program of Regional Expansion.

The latest project, Plaza Fair in the busy Colon district of Cebu City will soon be followed by others board of reality, elsewhere in the Visayas, Mindanao and Luzon, including Metro Manila where the Fair Group was born.

They are also launching a new image for the Plaza Fair Department store at the Limketkai Shopping Center in Cagayan de Oro. The concept will be tailored to meet the local customers' interest, modernizing the stores, system and service to give customers a fair, relaxed and fun-filled shopping experience.



*Mr. Danny Velasco presenting the blue print of the New Plaza Fair soon to open in Cagayan de Oro City*

There are three phases of re-development for Plaza fair Department Store.

Phase one is the re-imaging of the store. An update in the interior design and renovation is being started. A variety of brands, tenant mix and product mix is being beefed up along with new lines. Standard of service will be improved to give customers an enticing shopping experience.

The second phase is the conversion of non-selling areas in order for customers to easily navigate through the store. A specific area will be utilized as a depot where a mass display of the season's complete lines will be available for viewing.

Phase three of the development will be the construction of an extended area along Rosario Crescent Street. Palafox Associates are handling the concept design. A variety of shops will be offered, including health and beauty bars, coffee shops, snack bars and other specialty stores. An open-air coffee strip will give shoppers a relaxing venue for lounging after their shopping trip. The target of completion for the project is September of 2002.

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- Rolando Abanila
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- Kapisanan ng mga Kawani
- Elizabeth dela Pena
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- Pedro D. Romero
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# Japan, N. Korea resume rapprochement talks

PYONGYANG—Japan and North Korea relaunched diplomatic dialogue here on Sunday in their latest efforts to ease a decades-old discord between the two neighbors.

Senior foreign ministry officials from the two countries began the first day of two-day discussions at the People's Palace of Culture in central Pyongyang, their first official negotiation in almost two years.

The historical enemies suspended rapprochement talks in October 2000 after Tokyo focused on the alleged kidnappings of its nationals by Pyongyang, which in turn demanded compensation for Japan's 1910-1945 colonial rule of Korea.

"We have problems to solve, but don't have plenty of time," Hitoshi Tanaka, director general of the Japanese foreign ministry's Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau, told the opening session.

"We hope we can take a big step toward resolution of the problems" through the two-day meeting, Tanaka said.

Ma Chol-Su, director general for Asian affairs in the North Korean foreign ministry, described the talks as "encouraging," saying the two sides would try to map out "work for the future" of the two countries.

Ahead of the meeting, a foreign ministry official said: "We would like to begin discussion with broad issues, and then the talks will cover other issues, including kidnapping."

The meeting came after the Stalinist state signaled a shift from its hardline stance to a more conciliatory approach.

Pyongyang already surprised Tokyo on Saturday by setting up a meeting between the Japanese delegation, led by senior diplomats, and North Korea Premier Hong Song-nam, No. 4 in the communist nation's power structure.

"The arrangement showed that (North Korea) appears to put emphasis" on the delegation's visit, a foreign ministry official said.

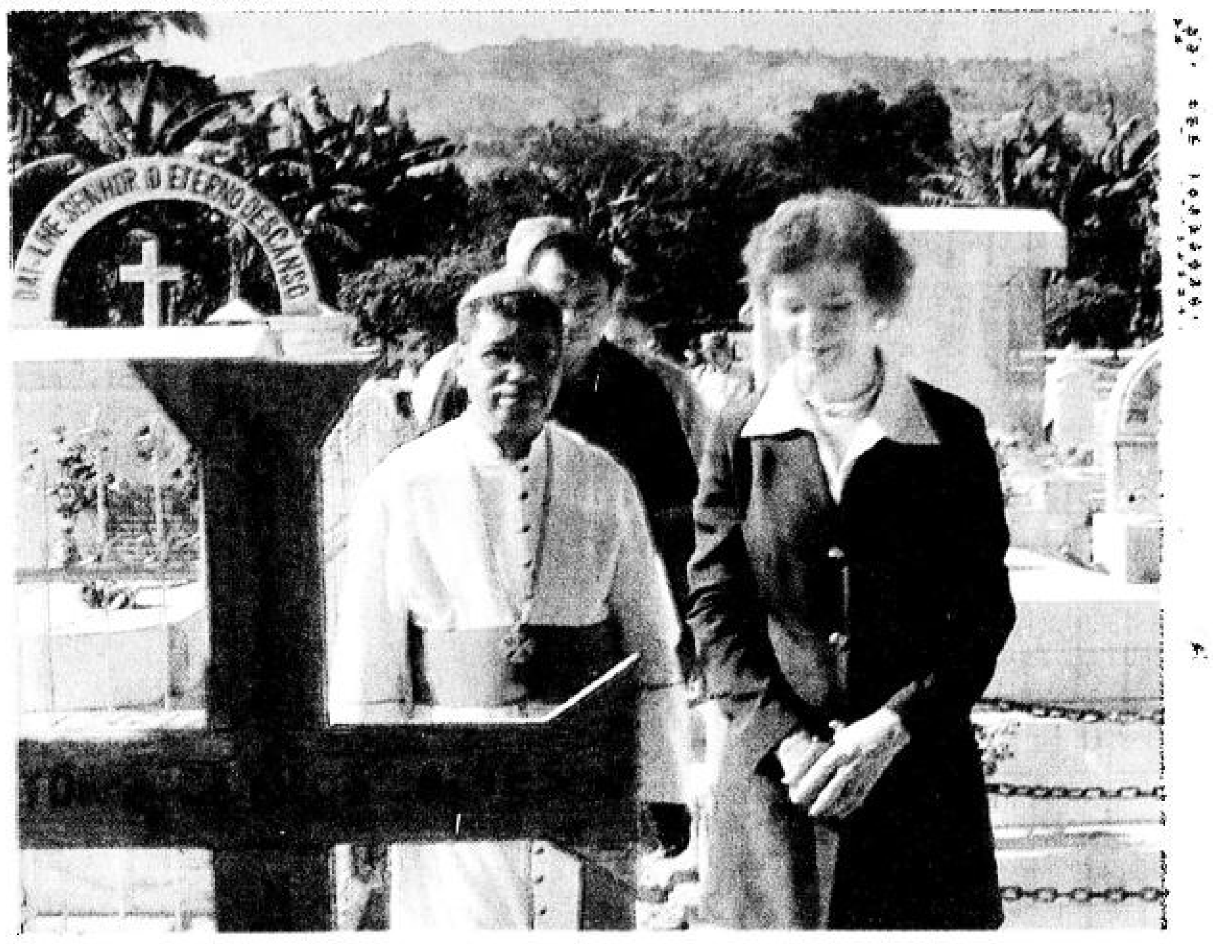
During the Saturday meeting with Hong, the Japanese delegation delivered an unprecedented message from Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi to North Korean leader Kim Jong-il.

In the message, Koizumi assured the North Korean leader that Tokyo was ready to work together to mend their troubled ties by solving problems lying between the two countries.

"I would like your country to also tackle these issues sincerely and seriously," the Japanese premier said.

The North Korean premier said progress in Japan-North Korea talks would benefit the two countries and the entire region, but stressed Tokyo's apology and wartime compensation were prerequisite to a normalization of dialogue.

"We are ready to normalize diplomatic relations if Japan sincerely handles past issues," Hong said. *AFP*



**REMEMBERING MASSACRE**
**UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson (right) walks with Nobel laureate Bishop Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo (left) at Santa Cruz cemetery in Dili, on Sunday. Robinson, who is on a three-day visit to the newly independent country, came to honor the victims of a 1991 massacre that killed at least 271 people and planted trees in front of the cemetery where Indonesian troops fired on thousands of pro-independence demonstrators in 1999.** AFP

# Activists go on offensive ahead of Earth Summit

JOHANNESBURG—Activists are on the offensive—and police are hitting back—as politicians descend on Johannesburg in a bid to solve the world's problems at the Earth Summit.

Police fired stun grenades Saturday evening at around 500 protesters during an unauthorized march in Johannesburg against the summit, which starts here Monday.

The activists—from around the world—gathered in front of Johannesburg's University of the Witwatersrand to demand the right to protest at the summit when they were confronted by around 50 policemen in riot gear.

The march was proceeding peacefully when the police fired the grenades without warning.

The demonstrators then lit candles and placed them around the policemen's feet, and burnt official summit pamphlets, then retreated back into the university.

"We decided to retreat so we can mobilize another day," one organizer told the crowd.

Demonstrators must obtain permission to march in South Africa. Nine permits have been granted so far for summit-related marches.

Police arrested more than 100 landless people on Wednesday and Thursday after they marched in Johannesburg to protest against evictions from squatter camps. Some complained they were beaten up.

The 10-day World Summit on Sustainable Development opens on Monday with the aim of reducing poverty around the world while protecting the environment, but is bedeviled by differences between rich and poor nations and between the United States and Europe.

Diplomats began last-ditch talks in Johannesburg Saturday in a bid to rescue the summit as Greenpeace commandos unfurled banners at Africa's only nuclear power plant to highlight their call for clean fuel.

Police arrested all 12 activists involved in the stunt at the Koeberg nuclear plant, 20 km north of Cape Town. They were released later in the day and are due to appear in court on Monday.

"We will prosecute anybody who disrespects South African and international laws," police spokesperson Bala Naidoo said.

In Johannesburg, police are using an unmanned spotter plane to look for troublemakers and any ambush attempts on the motorcades of the 100 or so heads of state and government who will attend. Combat helicopters are on standby as police patrol on mountain bikes and horseback.

The security forces, who have authorized nine marches during the summit, say they are prepared for air attacks, mortar bombs and snipers.

Manholes have been welded shut to prevent bombs being placed in them, police are doing daily bomb-sweeps, and everything from envelopes to trucks are being scrutinized at "search parks." Food for the delegates is being checked too.

The diplomats meeting behind closed doors ahead of the summit, who represent more than 30 key countries, are trying to resolve crucial disagreements on following up Agenda 21, a plan for the 21st century produced at the first Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. *AFP*

# Sokor PM faces rough sailing

SEOUL—South Korean President Kim Dae-jung's nominee for prime minister is expected to face a tough confirmation hearing this week as opposition lawmakers accuse him of financial and other improprieties.

The main opposition party, which controls the 273-member National Assembly with 139 seats, has vowed to "thoroughly screen" the millionaire ex-publisher of Maeil Business Newspaper, Chang Dae-hwan, during the two-day hearing beginning Monday.

The Grand National Party said it would decide its position on Chang after the hearing. The legislature was scheduled to vote on Chang, who already serves the duties of a prime minister, on Wednesday.

Opposition lawmakers and the People's Solidarity of Participatory Democracy, a Seoul-based anti-corruption civic group, have alleged that Chang speculated on real estate to help amass his 5.6 billion won ($4.7 million) wealth.

While real estate speculation is not illegal in South Korea, it raises concerns about conflict of interest when high government and social leaders are involved.

Critics also say Chang evaded inheritance taxes and pressured a local bank to lend him 3.9 billion won ($3.3 million), alleging the amount was far too much for a private loan. Opposition lawmakers want Chang to explain how he obtained the loan and what he used it for. *AP*

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**SEPARATIST VIOLENCE**
Indian paramilitary soldiers keep watch atop their armored vehicle in Srinagar on Aug. 25, 2002. Security has been beefed up in the capital of Kashmir as residents brace for a possible increase in separatist violence during upcoming elections.
REUTERS

# Probe of president's poisoning urged

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia—President Rudolf Schuster's family asked criminal investigators Sunday to look into whether the president, who appeared to be recovering from an unidentified illness, had been poisoned.

Schuster, 68, was re-hospitalized Saturday evening, the same day he had been released following two days of treatment for an unidentified illness that affected his liver.

The president's son, Peter Schuster, filed a criminal complaint early Sunday against an unknown perpetrator, a move that forces authorities to start a criminal investigation looking into the possibility that the president was poisoned, said the president's spokesperson, Jan Fule.

Doctors have failed to identify Schuster's illness, despite a battery of extensive examinations and tests. A blood test indicated the president had toxic substances in his blood.

Schuster's personal physician Peter Mayer told TA3 television Sunday that the president's condition had improved and that the head of the state had not had a fever since late Saturday.

Doctors will now try to determine whether bacteria or a virus in the president's liver or gallbladder could have caused the problems.

A sunstroke Schuster suffered earlier in the week while attending a papal mass in Krakow, Poland, might have made his body more vulnerable, Mayer said. *AP*

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# Israel rules out pullback; West Bank sweep continues

JERUSALEM—The Israeli government ruled out any imminent pullback from Hebron Sunday, bowing to pressure from the military establishment and further jeopardizing a plan for a phased troop withdrawal, as the Army continued its sweep in the West Bank.

"The Army can only pull out of this area once it has received guarantees that calm will be maintained" by the Palestinian Authority, Israeli Defense Minister Binyamin Ben Eliezer told Army radio Sunday morning.

"It still isn't the case in Hebron," he said, freezing a fledgling security plan for a pullout from reoccupied areas in exchange for a Palestinian crackdown on militants.

The Aug. 18 understanding, aimed at quelling 23 months of violence which have left more than 2,400 dead, started with a redeployment around Bethlehem, but Ben Eliezer apparently bowed to pressure from the military establishment not to extend the plan to Hebron before the end of the Jewish holidays a month from now.

Israeli media had reported a major split between the defense minister and top brass on the issue, prompting the Army to issue a rare public denial Saturday.

"All efforts to create tension (between the Army and minister) are a waste of time and do not correspond with the reality," the Army said in a statement.

Adding to the confusion, Ben Eliezer issued a statement later Sunday, saying "negotiations were to continue with the Palestinians" over the phased withdrawal plan he agreed with Palestinian Interior Minister Abdel Razaq al-Yahya a week ago.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's top adviser, Nabil Abu Rudeina, said Israel's latest move was a "dangerous step which will lead to more violence."

He called on members of the quartet of diplomatic powers seeking peace in the Middle East to "intervene immediately for an Israeli pullout from reoccupied areas and prevent the failure of an international effort to save the peace process."

For his part, top Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erakat argued Israel's freezing of the security plan would hamper the reforms pledged by Arafat under pressure from Israel and the United States.

"The Palestinian Authority cannot take its responsibilities at the civilian, economic and security levels, without an Israeli withdrawal from reoccupied areas," he said.

But Israeli troops continued their systematic sweep of the West Bank which the Army has largely reoccupied since the start of Operation Determined Path on June 19.

The Army raided the northern West Bank city of Jenin Sunday morning, injuring three people, including two children, in the process, Palestinian security sources said.

Ten suspected Palestinian militants were arrested during pre-dawn operations across the West Bank, including a leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP).

According to Palestinian witnesses, Abdel Halim Dana was arrested at his home in Hebron.

Five Palestinians were also rounded during an Israeli raid on the town of Salfit, south of Nablus, an Army spokesperson said.

On Saturday night, Mohammad Hatem Aott became the third successive leader of the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades in the northern West Bank town of Jenin to be killed by the army since the beginning of the year.

The armed offshoot of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's mainstream Fatah movement threatened fierce retaliation, as Israel enjoyed its fourth week without a suicide attack. *AFP*

# Chavez counters recall move

CARACAS—President Hugo Chavez asked tens of thousands of followers Saturday to oust opposition mayors and governors who could lead a recall referendum the nation's constitution allows once he is halfway through his term.

"On to battle," Chavez said. "We must go on the offensive against the referendum."

Chavez spoke to a crowd protesting an Aug. 14 Supreme Court decision to acquit two generals and two admirals for their role in the April 11-12 coup that removed Chavez from power for less than 48 hours.

"We cannot remain silent. We must express our complete rejection of this Supreme Court decision," he said.

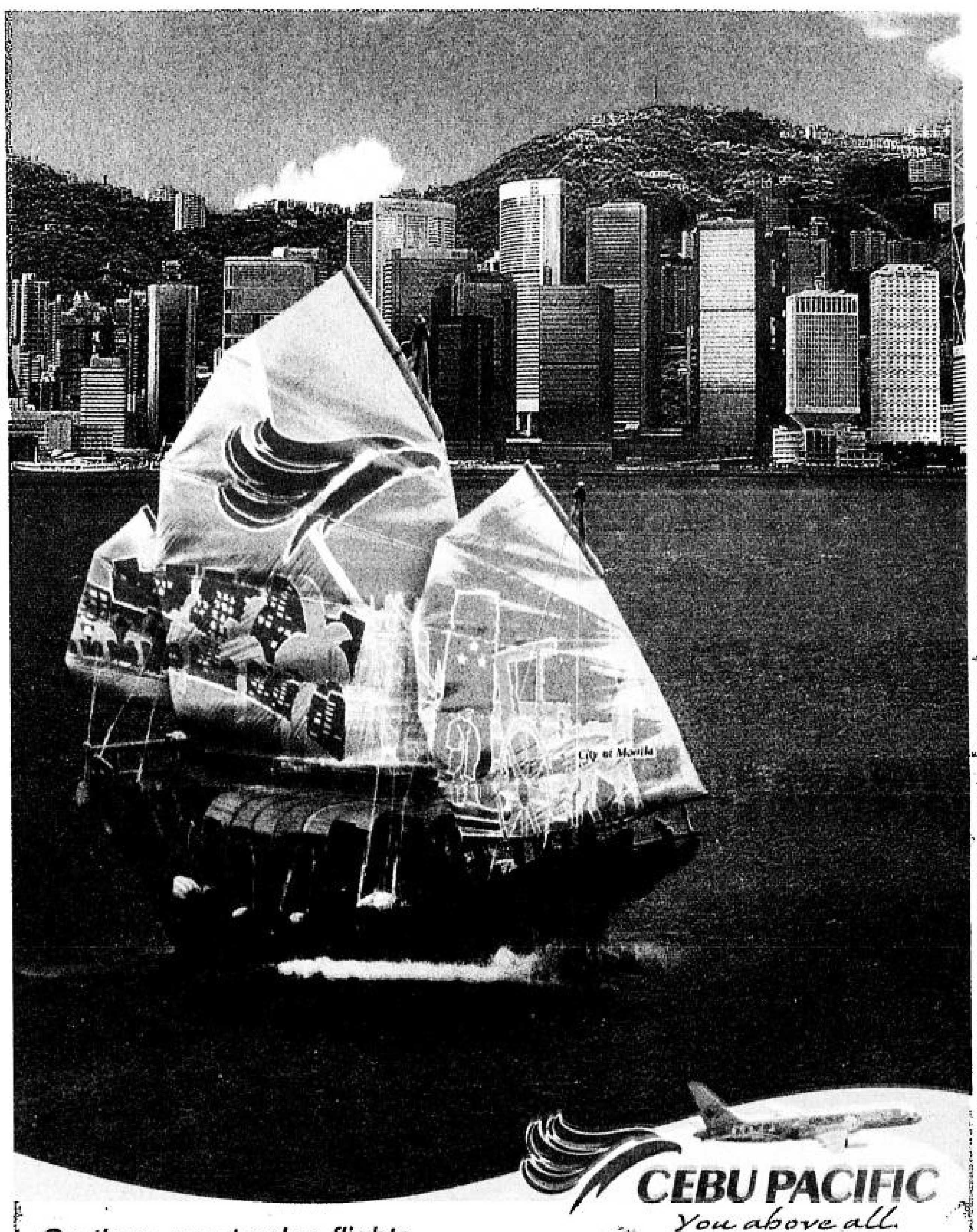
As Chavez completes the third year of his six-year term, he called upon his followers to remove opposition governors and mayors who could spearhead a referendum to recall him.

The constitution written during Chavez's first term in office allows the president to be recalled at any time after the midpoint of the term.

Caracas Mayor Fredy Bernal said "more than 300,000 Chavez supporters" joined the march. Police did not give an estimate of the crowds that walked 13 km through the capital.

"The aberrant decision (from the Supreme Court), which lacks respect for the truth, justice, logic, has generated a disfavorable worldwide reaction," Chavez said in a speech.

"The court lags behind the changes in this country. It is at the service of economic and political powers," said pro-Chavez legislator Nicolas Maduro who led the march. *AFP*



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# Job lack forces gov't to let small-scale mining continue

**By Christine Gaylican**

**SMALL-SCALE miners could resume their excavation in the Mt. Diwalwal gold rush area in Davao City by the end of the month, the Mines and Geosciences Bureau said on Saturday.**

Some of the 30,000 small scale miners dependent on mining the Mt. Diwalwal tunnels for livelihood would be allowed to continue their work so long as they would not use explosives and maintain small mine tailings ponds.

Mines and Geosciences Bureau Director Horace Ramos told the INQUIRER that these conditions would contain the mine tailings from reaching the Naboc River.

"This is one of the solutions derived at because the government could not support the 30,000 people dependent on the mines for the next six months. We could allow the small scale miners who have mine tailings ponds to work on their areas by Aug. 31," Ramos said.

Government mining engineers will provide assistance to strengthen the foundations of the mine tailings ponds, which Ramos explained could easily be toppled by rains.

The government, through the Mines Bureau and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, has decided to stop operations of large-, medium- and small-scale miners on Mt. Diwalwal for the next six months to resolve the pollution and ownership issues hounding the gold-rush area.

A P50-million mine tailings dam would be constructed to contain the pollution coming from the day-to-day operations on Mt. Diwalwal.

To finance the construction of the said mine tailings dam, Malacañang has ordered the Natural Resources and Development Corp. (NRDC) to acquire P50 million in funds through a loan from the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP), Ramos told the INQUIRER.

"By the time the temporary mine tailings dam is operational, the government will charge some fees in order to pay off the loans from DBP," said Ramos.

The 5- to 10-meter-high mine tailings dam would be constructed 5 kilometers from the actual mine site.

The Chamber of Mines led by its members Gerry Brimo of Philex Mining Corp., Artemio Disini of Lepanto Mining Consolidated and Philip Romualdez of Benguet Mining Corp. has volunteered their expertise in the construction of the mine tailings dam.

The collaboration between government and private mining companes may cut short the time needed for the construction of the mine tailings dam to five from the original target of six months, Ramos added.

In a statement, the chamber said the DENR has accepted its offer of technical services.

It said the planned tailings pond would have an initial capacity of 450 tons per day with a 12-year mine life. A dam would be built to handle tailings from small-scale mining operations at a capacity of 150 tons per day, the statement said.

Conflict at the Diwalwal mining site has turned violent.

The most recent incident of violence in the area was the poisoning of a mine tunnel, leading to the death of one miner.

Fumes believed to have come from burning tires laced with cyanide filled up the mining tunnel which then held several miners.

Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, who was given the assignment by President Macapagal to stop the violence in the area, had ordered a ban on the entry of firearms into Diwalwal to prevent further bloodshed.

The efforts failed, though, as violence continues to hang over the mining area.

Recently, small-scale miners held a rally to protest a government plan to take over the mines.

The protesters brought with them the coffin bearing the remains of the miner who died in the poisoned tunnels.

An armored personnel carrier of the military was reported to have run over the coffin during dispersal operations, but the military had denied this.

**CONGESTION** is visible from afar on Mt. Diwalwal where the discovery of gold led to a population boom and problems far more serious than just people elbowing each other out for space. BING GONZALES/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

# Witness in slaying of judge in gold dispute missing

[illegible] I, Davao Oriental—The lone [illegible] to the murder of Compostela Valley Judge Eugenio Valles is missing.

Former Davao Oriental Vice Gov. Cirilo Valles, elder brother of the slain judge, said they feared that Lenny, his brother's 40-year-old househelp, could have been snatched and executed to stop the case from prospering.

The suspects in the murder, according to Cirilo, included a "very powerful politician" in Compostela Valley.

"She was missing since three weeks ago. And we believed it has something to do with her being the sole witness to the killing of my brother. We are afraid she could have been killed already," Cirilo said.

Prior to Lenny's disappearance, she was working with prosecutors to solve the murder case.

Cirilo said his family tried to locate Lenny in Nabunturan town, where she hails from.

"We were told by her relatives that she was missing since three weeks ago. They also suspected that her mysterious disappearance could have something to do with her being a witness to the slaying of my brother," Cirilo said.

At the time of his death, Judge Valles was handling the controversial case between Monkayo Mayor Jose Brillantes and small-scale miners on Mt. Diwalwal.

The case stemmed from Brillantes' cease and desist order on mining operations in the gold-rush area, which was contested by the small-scale miners.

Valles eventually enraged small-scale miners when he ruled in favor of Brillantes.

The magistrate's family said they believed that his death was connected with the case and that those who ordered him killed were "big-time miners who wanted to control Diwalwal." *Ferdinand O. Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

# Congressmen assail withholding of tobacco taxes

CANDON CITY—Ilocos Sur Rep. Eric Singson accused the government of discrimination against tobacco farmers after learning that the tobacco excise tax shares of four Ilocos and Cordillera provinces remained unfunded in the government's expenditure program for this year.

"I felt very bad for the seeming discrimination against Ilocanos," Singson said.

"I understand the budget dilemma the country is experiencing but why did the other (programs in the government's expenditure list) receive their respective funds?" he asked.

Singson said he was surprised and saddened when he learned during a recent hearing of the House committee on ways and means that the P2.4-billion tobacco excise tax (Republic Act 7171) shares was among the programs that had yet to be funded.

Also among the unfunded programs are the P5-billion modernization program of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the P5-million allocation for the National Coordination Council under the Office of the President and P23-million insurance premium of local government units.

RA 7171 is a law setting aside 15 percent of the excise taxes on locally manufactured Virginia type cigarettes. The funds would be distributed to the provinces producing Virginia tobacco.

The representatives of the Virginia tobacco producing provinces of Ilocos Sur, Ilocos Norte, La Union and Abra had asked President Macapagal-Arroyo for a meeting to discuss the fund release.

Representatives Singson and Salacnib Baterina (Ilocos Sur), Roque Ablan Jr. and Imee Marcos (Ilocos Norte), Manuel Ortega and Tomas Dumpit (La Union), and Luis Bersamin Jr. (Abra) had written Ms Macapagal to ask her to release P1.2 billion in tobacco excise tax for 2001, half of the appropriation for this year.

The funds have yet to be released despite the issuance of a Special Allotment Release Order in December 2001.

Singson said Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin told him that she had already submitted the request for the release of the tobacco excise tax funds to the President but she had yet to get a response.

Singson said in the 2001 budget, only the P108.2-million share of Ilocos Sur was released to the dismay of other provinces.

Singson learned that it was his estranged cousin, former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, who lobbied for its release.

The seven Ilocos and Cordillera representatives, in a resolution, asked for an investigation of the processing of the tobacco excise tax funds following the delay in their release. *Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

# 13 of Surigao's 17 towns finally have doctors

**DAYRIT** announcing the deployment of doctors.

SURIGAO CITY—Impoverished folk in Surigao del Norte now have greater access to health services, thanks to the Department of Health's Leaders For Health Project-Doctors to the Barrios program.

The program, the first of its kind in the country, is a two-year undertaking that aims to take a more comprehensive and systematic approach to problems hounding the country's health sector.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit said medical practitioners have been deployed to the province's 13 towns, including island-municipalities, to address the health problems of the areas' residents.

The towns, which finally got its doctors, were Dapa, Del Carmen, General Luna, Pilar, San Benito, San Isidro and Sta. Monico in Siargao Island, Tubajon, Malimono, Socorro, Alegria and Loreto and San Jose towns on Dinagat Island.

Most of the residents in the typhoon-prone towns could hardly afford medical services by private practitioners because they only rely on small-scale fishing to support their families.

But with the deployment, Dayrit said residents do not have to worry about availing the services of doctors anymore.

As of now, only four of the province's 17 towns remain without doctors.

But Dayrit said the DOH would soon end the towns' "doctor-less" status by sending paramedics in the next phase of the project while doctors aren't available yet.

Aside from curing illnesses, Dayrit said the newly deployed doctors would also dig deeper into the root cause of prevailing diseases in Surigao del Norte.

"The major concern of the doctors is to solve health problems and reasons why (the people) got sick," Dayrit said during a recent visit here.

Working on various fields of specialization, the doctors will not only engage in giving preventive health care service, but also aid municipal officials in building and strengthening health systems through planning, formulating policies and programs, and workshops.

"They are the type of doctors who work with the LGUs and give preventive health care service," Dayrit said.

He said that by working together, both the doctors and local officials could harmoniously address the root causes of health problems in the towns, which are mostly preventable.

Health records showed that 90 percent of illness in rural areas in the country, including malnutrition, infection and water-borne diseases, are preventable.

"This project will empower the local chief executives, community leaders and constituents of the municipalities to give more importance to their health," Dayrit said.

He said the doctors would help change the way people think, feel and behave about their health.

Dayrit said that aside from Surigao del Norte, doctors were also fielded to other impoverished provinces such as Camarines Sur, Samar and Biliran.

The program is being undertaken with the Ateneo Graduate School of Business and Pfizer Philippines Foundation. *Francis A. Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

## THE DAILY GOSPEL

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**1st Reading:** 2 Thes 1:1-5, 11-12
**Gospel:** Mt 23:13-22

Jesus said, "Woe to you, teachers of the Law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the door to the kingdom of heaven in people's faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor do you allow others to do so.

Woe to you, teachers of the Law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel by sea and land to win a single convert, yet once he is converted, you turn him twice as fit for hell as yourselves.

Woe to you, blind guides! You say: To swear by the Temple is not binding, but to swear by the treasure of the Temple is. Blind fools! Which is of more worth? The gold in the Temple or the Temple which makes the gold a sacred treasure? You say: To swear by the altar is not binding, but to swear by the offering on the altar is. How blind you are! Which is of more value: the offering on the altar or the altar which makes the offering sacred? Whoever swears by the altar is swearing by the altar and by everything on it. Whoever swears by the Temple is swearing by it and by God who dwells in the Temple. Whoever swears by heaven is swearing by the throne of God and by him who is seated on it."

**Commentary**

This week begins a series of readings from Paul's second letter to the Church in Thessalonica, a port northeast of Greece. These two letters are probably the first of the New Testament to be written, about 50 A.D. Paul seems to love this community of Gentile converts very much. It contrasts with the angry words of Jesus to the scribes and Pharisees, Jesus is so angry with those scholars who argued over words and laws. These people show no love and do not work for justice. Are we going to be like them? They concern themselves with so many superficial things, that they forget what is essential! Not the law but how the law is applied to ourselves in the search for what is true and just.

*Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cn1.net; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)*

## SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

**REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)/CIVIL LAW (LAND TITLES AND DEEDS)**-Distinction between action for declaration of nullity of free patents and certificates of title and action for reversion-An ordinary civil action for declaration of nullity of free patents and certificates of title is not the same as an action for reversion. The difference between them lies in the allegations as to the character of ownership of the realty whose title is sought to be nullified. In an action for reversion, the pertinent allegations in the complaint would admit state ownership of the disputed land. On the other hand, a cause of action for declaration of nullity of free patent and certificate of title would require allegations of the plaintiff's ownership of the contested lot prior to the issuance of such free patent and certificate of title as well as the defendant's fraud or mistake, as the case may be, in successfully obtaining these documents of title over the parcel of land claimed by the plaintiff. In such a case, the nullity arises strictly not from the fraud or deceit but from the fact that the land is beyond the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Lands to bestow and whatever patent or certificate of title obtained therefore is consequently void ab initio. The real party in interest is not the State but the plaintiff who alleges a pre-existing right of ownership over the parcel of land in question even before the grant of title to the defendant. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Bellosillo, Heirs of Ambrocio Kionisala v. Heirs of Honorio Davut, G.R. No. 147379, February 27, 2002]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

# Bayan Muna assails anti-Red ads, posters

BAGUIO CITY—A series of posters in Metro Manila and newspaper advertisements that came out recently in the INQUIRER have prompted the party-list group Bayan Muna to study what legal action to take against the National Alliance for Democracy (NAD), the group that supposedly produced the ads.

Lawyer Edre Olalia of the Public Interest Law Center (PILC) and a legal consultant of Bayan Muna, said the series of anti-communist advertisements have been designed to incite violence against all activist organizations, regardless of their ideological nature.

"I would be the last to question their freedom of expression. We can all laugh at all the (pun) they can come up with. But the advertisements are designed to (threaten) progressive groups," Olalia told the INQUIRER on Wednesday here.

He cited three NAD advertisements published by the INQUIRER, which "demonized" Bayan Muna Representatives Liza Maza, Satur Ocampo and Crispin Beltran, as well as Bayan spokesperson Teddy Casino, Linda Montayre of the People's Consultative Assembly (PCA) and Crispin Remulla, spokesperson of the Partido ng Masang Pilipino.

Last week, two sets of posters were discovered plastered around the University Belt in Manila.

One poster lampooned a recent Joyce Jimenez movie "Ang Galing, Galing Mo, Babes." But instead of Jimenez and co-star Albert Martinez, the poster superimposed the picture of Maza on Jimenez's body, and a full body shot of bandit leader Abu Sabaya, the spokesperson of the Abu Sayyaf Group, whom the government had declared dead from a military encounter.

The poster carried the line "Ang Galing Galing Mo, Comrade," and listed the Communist Party of the Philippines as its "producer."

Another poster lampooned the Hollywood movie "Eight Legged Freaks" but with the heads of Bayan Muna and Bayan leaders superimposed on the thorax of giant spiders.

For its background, the poster used the scenery filmed for the movie "Killing Fields," which depicted the Cambodian genocide.

"We can be amused by these advertisements and posters. Rep. Liza Maza herself told me the poster made her as sexy as Joyce Jimenez," Olalia said.

But he said the poster "insinuates that the Bayan Muna had been associated with the Abu Sayyaf."

"That is bringing Bayan Muna closer to danger," Olalia said after he discussed the PILC's critique of pending anti-terrorism bills in Congress.

Olalia pointed to the murder or disappearance this year of 24 Bayan Muna coordinators.

He also referred to a Department of Justice circular, released at the height of the government's campaign against the Abu Sayyaf, which sanctioned the detention of people "even if it is on mere suspicion that they are linked to the Abu Sayyaf."

The murders never elicited any public commentary or offers of concern from President Macapagal-Arroyo, he said.

"We are discussing the legal impact (of these NAD campaigns). Definitely these are libelous. Maghanda sila (They should prepare)," said Olalia.

The advertisements first appeared in July, complementing a campaign supporting the presence of American troops in Mindanao. *Vincent Cabreza and Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

# Army general says terrorist tag fits rebels

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—The highest Army official in Northern and Central Luzon has said armed communist groups "deserved to be called terrorists."

Maj. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, chief of the Northern Luzon Command (Nolcom), voiced out for the first time his harshest rebuke of rebel groups on the heels of allegations by a farmers' organization that the government's all-out war against communists was hurting civilians.

"They're shameful liars," Garcia said, referring to the New People's Army and the Rebolusyonaryong Hukbong Bayan (RHB).

He said the two feuding groups are using "legal fronts" as propaganda arms to attack the government and the military.

"Everything that this government does is of no good to them. They always put a bad spin to what we do. They're the noisiest and venomous in their lies even when the government is succeeding in the campaign against poverty," Garcia said.

The Nolcom, with more than 10,000 soldiers, operates in the Ilocos, Cagayan, Cordillera and Central Luzon regions.

Garcia said the insurgency problem was worst in Central Luzon.

According to him, the terrorist tag fits both the NPA and RHB because their clashes in Bataan and Zambales were a "fight over turf and lucrative extortion racket victimizing farmers and (poor) communities."

"Their armed confrontations were the ones that have caused fear and consternation in hinterland communities," Garcia added.

Garcia dismissed the allegations that the military's foot patrols, census, house-to-house searches, checkpoints and imposition of curfew have sown fear and disrupted agricultural activities in Zambales and Bataan.

In Zambales, the human rights group Karapatan and the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan-Central Luzon sought the help of the provincial board in seeking justice for the death of eight farmers in Zambales, eight of whom were allegedly killed by the RHB.

Karapatan said the victims were from Palauig and Masinloc towns.

"(Their relatives) failed to get help from local officials so we decided to bring the case to the provincial board," Cecile Ruiz, Karapatan spokesperson, said.

The group's fact-finding mission report identified the victims as Edwin Salazar, Orlino Parinas, Wilson Mamaril, Genaro Cortuna, Romeo Nepomuceno, William Fabro, Jimmy Nacin and Nestor Dasca. It said a certain Bobby Dampuan remains missing and is believed dead.

Ruiz said the RHB's "killing spree" in Zambales occurred between March and May. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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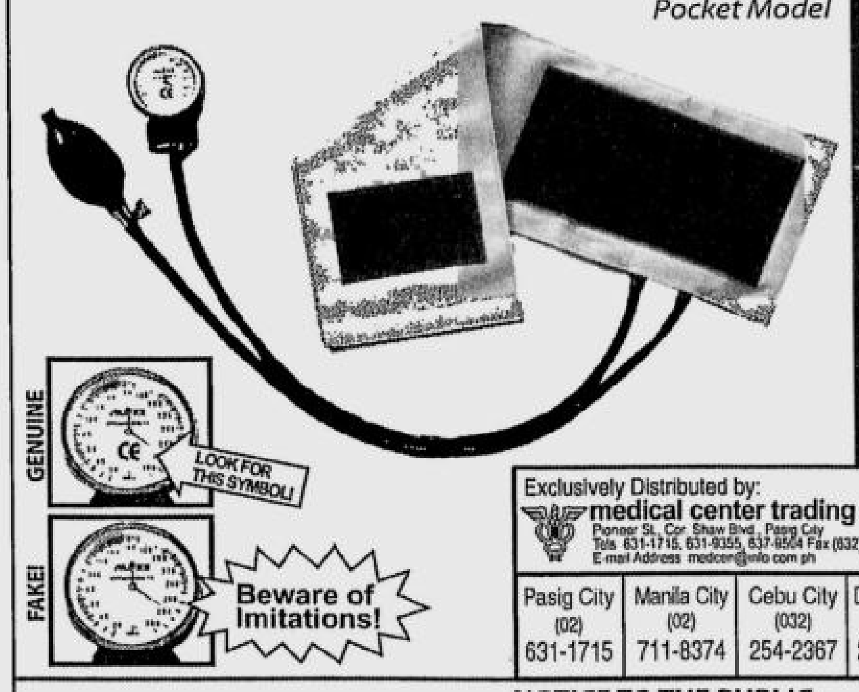

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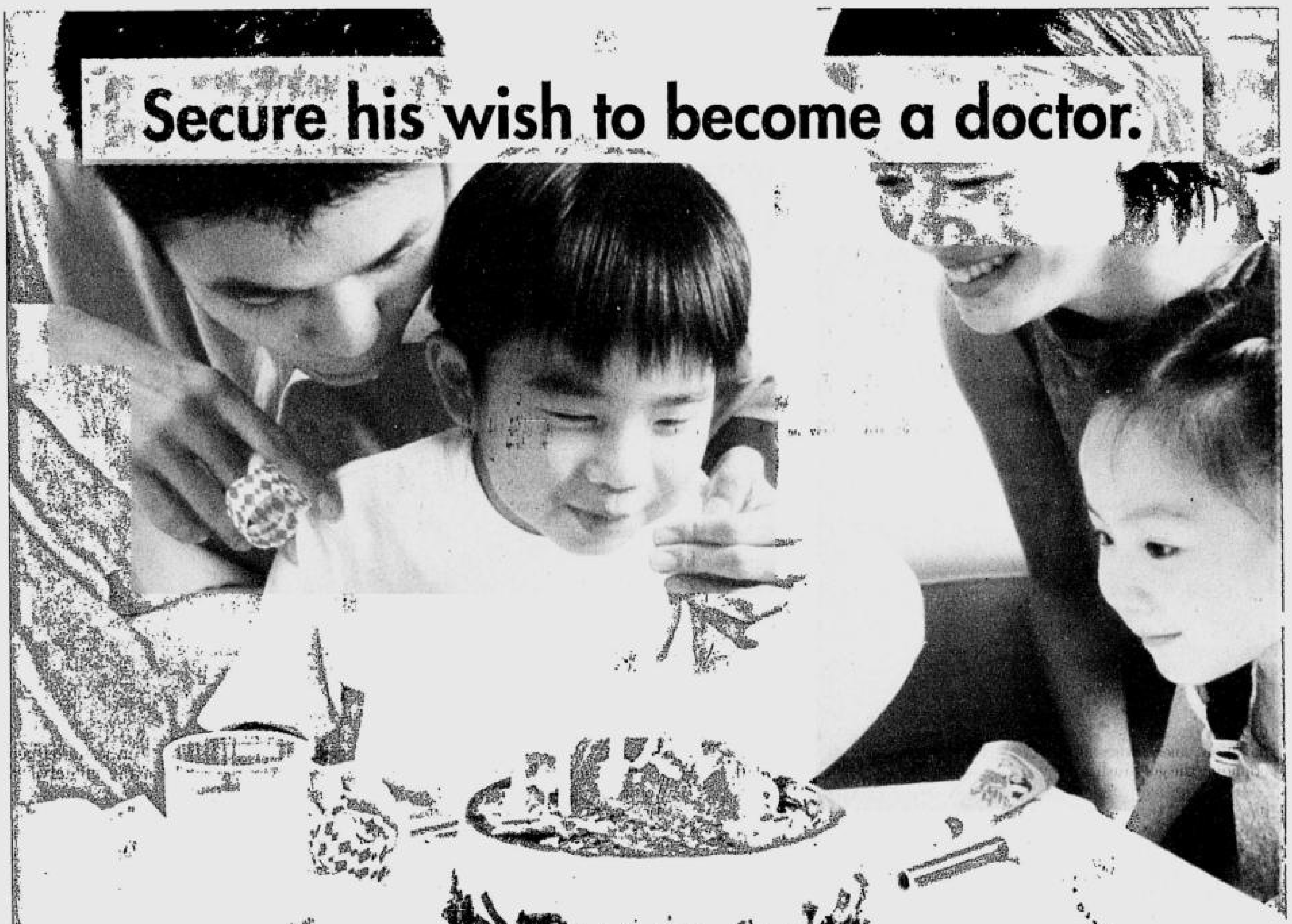

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| 2 | 2.75% | P 2,291.67 | P 27,500.00 |
| 3 | 3.00% | P 2,500.00 | P 30,000.00 |
| 4 | 3.25% | P 2,708.33 | P 32,500.00 |
| 5 | 3.50% | P 2,916.67 | P 35,000.00 |
| 6 | 3.75% | P 3,125.00 | P 37,500.00 |
| 7 | 4.00% | P 3,333.33 | P 40,000.00 |
| 8 | 4.25% | P 3,541.67 | P 42,500.00 |
| 9 | 4.50% | P 3,750.00 | P 45,000.00 |
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# Coffee shops mushroom in Iloilo, but coffee growers suffer

**By Ma. Diosa Labiste**
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

ILOILO CITY—Coffee shops have sprouted in this city, many of them in malls, but their presence hardly made any difference in the lives of hundreds of coffee growers in Iloilo province.

Those sipping cups of espressos and brewed coffee in air-conditioned coffee shops are unaware that farmers consider their coffee a bitter brew. Prices of coffee beans have been falling and coffee farmers are wondering if growing coffee is still worth it.

A kilo of dried, clean coffee today costs P26, a far cry from P50 to P55 per kilo in 1999. Nestle, a multinational company, corners a big volume of Iloilo's coffee and dictated the buying price of coffee, said agriculture officials.

"The price per kilo should be at least P34. Some coffee growers in Janiuay and Lambunao towns have refused to harvest their coffee beans (because) the price was not even enough to pay for their transport cost," said Pedro Calantas, assistant provincial agriculturist.

He added that world coffee prices have also dipped due to a glut.

The local market for dried coffee beans, mostly Arabica, is limited to coffee stalls in public markets in the towns and this city. The stalls, serving "native coffee" at P5 to P10 a glass, usually buy a sack or kilo of beans to be roasted. In homes, hotels and restaurant, instant coffee is the norm.

Coffee was considered a major crop in Iloilo starting in 1996, despite the fact that the province has thousands of decades-old coffee farms, many of which need rehabilitation.

Arturo Parcon, of the provincial agriculture office, said that Iloilo has 8,000 hectares of old coffee farms. Some 4,000 hectares of new farms were established in 1997. The province is the top producer of coffee in Western Visayas.

But unlike cutflowers, tilapia, prawn and rice, coffee has not become a major crop.

Calantas said other crop farmers have formed organizations and cooperatives to share technology and negotiate for better prices and government support. But Iloilo coffee farmers have remained unorganized.

Iloilo coffee farmers organized for the first time on Aug. 22, with Dr. Ulysses Valdez, the vice mayor of Barotac Viejo town, 64 km north of here, as president.

Valdez owns an integrated coffee farm where coffee grows alongside fruit trees, rice and vegetables. He said the money he earned from his other crops cushioned the crunch of the plummeting coffee prices.

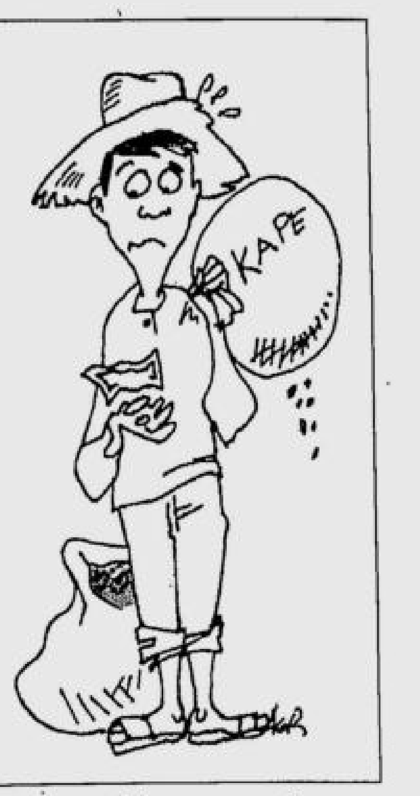
Calantas told the farmers that coffee farms in Iloilo must modernize to produce more coffee.

Iloilo's coffee harvest is 200 to 300 kilos per hectare compared to three tons per hectare in Vietnam.

Parcon, on the other hand, preferred integrated farming that is also known as "coffee-based integrated farm" and "coffee-based multistore farm." Integrated farms grow not just coffee but also a variety of crops. In contrast to mono-cropping, the integrated farms are earth-friendly and can rely on other crops if there is a glut or disaster.

Marketing the coffee is something the newly formed coffee growers' group wants to improve.

A group in Leon town tried to market their roasted coffee as "organically-grown" in 1995. But Ilonggos preferred the convenience of instant coffee.



# Ex-CPP cadres form new group, warn of armed struggle vs GMA

LUCENA CITY—Under the shadow of the government's war against the revolutionary movement, at least 100 members of three underground groups and a delegation from Muslim revolutionaries held a unity congress and formed a new and unified underground, the spokesperson of the group said yesterday.

"The Partido ng Manggagawang Pilipino, the Sosyalistang Partido ng Paggawa, the Partido Proletaryo Demokratiko and a group of Bangsamoro revolutionaries have formed a new party, which is now simply called the Partido ng Manggagawang Pilipino (PMP)," said Patricio Ramirez, PMP spokesman, in an e-mailed statement.

In a replies to questions sent by the INQUIRER by e-mail, the group said it would also launch armed operations in "due time and (for the) right target."

When pressed for details, the group refused to categorically make public its plans.

"With the prevailing anti-terrorist hysteria being fanned by the GMA-US regime, it would be more prudent for any revolutionary to refrain from making public announcements of any armed operation. It will only invite a terrorist tag," Ramirez said.

However, he clarified that the group's armed operations would differ from the guerilla war being waged by the New People's Army and from the type of operation of the Alex Boncayao Brigade, the NPA urban-based hit squad formerly headed by Felimon Lagman.

"There were mistakes in the scheme of the ABB partisan operations that need to be discarded and corrected to cope with the present situation," the PMP spokesperson said.

But he said the armed component of the newly founded underground group would only serve a secondary and supplementary role in the group's struggle.

"The PMP will be more identified with mass struggles that will be staged through mass organizations under its wings," Ramirez said.

"We will not bite the bait and be like the CPP that took the challenge of the government for an all-out war by threatening to bomb Napocor towers," he added.

The founding meeting, which spanned several days of debates and deliberations, was conducted somewhere in the outskirts of Metro Manila, according to Ramirez.

The PMP is the group founded by the late rebel leader Felimon "Ka Popoy" Lagman, the first communist leader to bolt the mainstream CPP in 1993.

Ramirez said the newly formed group decided to adopt the name of the underground group founded by Lagman as a tribute to the slain rebel. He said a central committee was elected, unifying the party forces under a single leadership and a common program and constitution.

"The PMP of Ka Popoy is the biggest group among the founding members. But it does not necessarily mean that the original PMP will lord it over and dominate the unified group. The members will complement each other. The whole is more than the sum of the parts," said Ramirez.

"Our aim is to build a vibrant popular movement under the leadership of the working class against imperialist globalization, US intervention and the Arroyo regime," Ramirez said.

He said the government's stepped up operations against activist groups would not succeed.

"The anti-communist hysteria being fanned by the Arroyo regime is a sign of the desperation of the ruling class and a measure of the advance of the revolutionary movement," Ramirez said.

"Sooner than later the social volcano that is Philippine society will explode and the merger party was formed precisely to give direction to the spontaneous struggles that will erupt," he said.

The PMP, PPD and the group of Bangsamoro revolutionaries traced their origins to the units of the mainstream CPP that split off in the early 1990s.

The SPP members, however, came not just from the present communist leadership but also from the old Partido Komunista ng Pilipinas.

The merger took 10 years to prepare, Ramirez said.

The group declared that it still abhors the CPP's strategy and tactics of protracted war and the Stalinist-Maoist system that continues to prevail inside the party.

"But in a situation that the reactionary apparatus of the state is determined to crush all the revolutionary movements, we offer our hands in solidarity with the CPP. The ball is now up to the CPP if they will cooperate to defend the masses and protect civil rights and the country's sovereignty," Ramirez said. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

# DILG probes alleged bribe of village execs by 'jueteng' suspect

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga—The Department of Interior and Local Government on Monday began investigating reports that a suspected jueteng financier, who recently won as barangay captain, had allegedly offered free trips to Hong Kong to 21 village chiefs here.

Rodolfo Ferraren, DILG director in Central Luzon, ordered the investigation of Melchor Caluag, also the barangay captain of Dolores and a suspected financier of the illegal numbers game.

Reports said Caluag offered the trip to the village chiefs to get their votes and ensure his chairmanship of the Association of Barangay Captains in the city.

The investigation also came on the heels of persistent reports that Caluag, also known as Ngo-ngo, had reportedly handed out P20,000 in "goodwill money" to the 21 village officials to court their votes.

The INQUIRER tried to reach Caluag through his mother and a cousin on Monday, but failed. This correspondent also tried to get Caluag's telephone number from the mayor's office but employees there could not provide any information.

A city councilor, speaking on condition of anonymity, claimed that Caluag had "secured" the top ABC post after last Sunday's mass oath taking of village and youth officials. The ABC elections are scheduled next month.

According to the councilor, Caluag's victory was certain after 21 of his 34 colleagues accepted his offer of Hong Kong trips that included P100,000 in pocket money.

But the councilor did not identify the supporters of Caluag.

Caluag only needs 18 votes to clinch the top ABC slot, an ex-officio position in the city council.

Some councilors said this was Caluag's way of penetrating the city council, whose members were opposing his political ambitions.

In May last year, Caluag lost in his bid to get a seat in the city council.

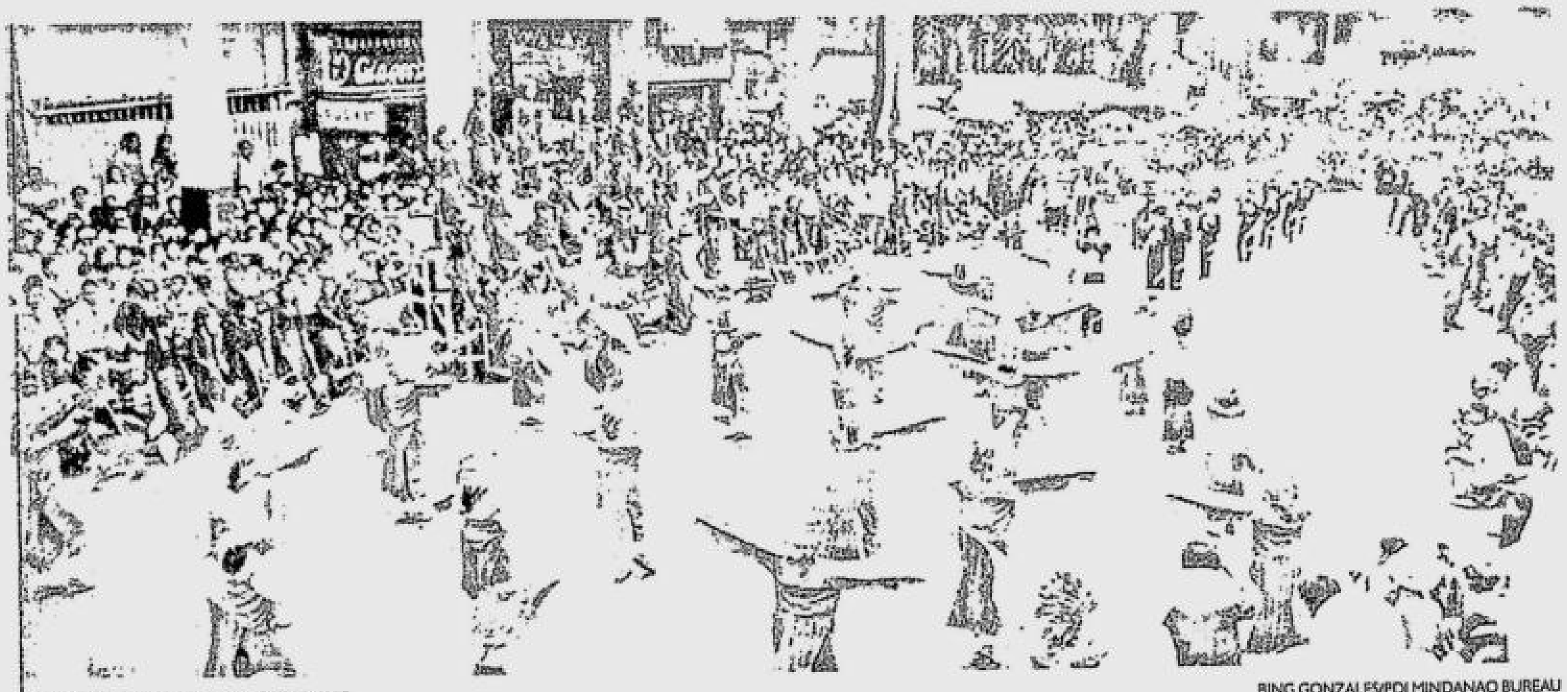
One councilor attributed that defeat to the refusal of local officials to make the council a "breeding ground of illegal gambling lords."

Another alleged jueteng financier, Mario Garcia, has been elected to the council for two consecutive terms.

Mayor Reynaldo Aquino himself did not endorse Caluag and instead supported Do Santos, barangay captain of San Agustin who has served the village for 20 years.

Despite the reported bribe attempts, Santos said he was eyeing the ABC post to "whip Ngo-ngo politically."

Ferraren, in a telephone interview, said the investigation would determine if the bribe attempts were true. He did not say when the investigation would be completed. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*



BING GONZALES/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

**THE STREET IS A STAGE**
Dancers take flight to a different form on the streets of Davao City during the celebration of the city's Kadayawan Festival that features colorful costumes and dances.

# Motorists get sickening welcome at Vizcaya entry

BAMBANG, Nueva Vizcaya—Motorists here received a sickening welcome after the head of a man was displayed along the national highway in Barangay Magsaysay Hills on Sunday.

The head was found around 1:30 a.m. Sunday at the foot of a lion's statue that serves as a welcome marker to this town.

Police later recovered the victim's body sprawled along a road in Sitio Bantay in Barangay Buag here. He was identified as Benjamin Hernandez, 34.

Cecilio Viado, who surrendered to the police, identified the main suspect as Marlon Garcia, 23. Viado claimed Garcia hacked and chopped off Hernandez's head using a bolo, police said.

The victim's relatives said Garcia and his group were members of a syndicate believed to be responsible for a series of robberies here.

Hernandez, according to his relatives, had earned the ire of Garcia's group after he caught them stealing farm animals from the neighborhood.

"The suspects are notorious criminals. They will do anything if anyone gets in the way of their illegal activities," said Councilor Arnel Hernandez, the victim's cousin.

Police said they are investigating the report.

Viado told police that he, Garcia and two other suspects, Ruben Andrada and Wilmo Ambos, were having a drinking spree at Viado's house on Saturday.

Without any provocation, Garcia threw a drinking glass at Hernandez who was then passing by.

Viado said Garcia approached Hernandez and hacked him. When Hernandez fell, Garcia continued to hack Hernandez and then cut his head off.

Viado said Garcia carried Hernandez's head toward the national road and left it by the roadside before he fled. *Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

# Extension of Cimatu tenure sought

COTABATO CITY—Malacañang has reportedly been inundated with requests from Mindanao leaders asking President Macapagal-Arroyo to extend the tour of duty of Gen. Roy Cimatu as Armed Forces chief of staff.

Nabil Tan, presidential Adviser on the peace process, said the requests came in the form of letters from governors and mayors and resolutions adopted by provincial and town legislative councils.

Cimatu was set to retire on Sept. 4 and Ms Macapagal hinted she might not extend the military chief's term anymore.

Tan said even Gov. Parouk Hussin of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao has supported the move to have Cimatu's term extended.

"He has to finish the job...that of crushing the pervasive and contagious terrorist Abu Sayyaf group, now lurking in the ARMM region," Hussin's letter to Ms Macapagal read.

*Charlie C. Senase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

# Truck crash in Basilan kills 13, injures 70

ZAMBOANGA CITY—A large truck carrying dozens of students bound for a religious festival crashed into the side of a bridge Sunday in Basilan, killing 13 people and injuring more than 70 others, officials said.

A team of American medics helped doctors treat the injured highschool students in hospitals on the island province of Basilan, they added.

At least a dozen of the truck passengers with serious injuries were evacuated to this city by helicopter, said Army Col. Alexander Aleo.

Aleo said the truck was traveling down a hill when the driver lost control. Its side railings then snapped off, throwing passengers off the vehicle, before it crashed into the side of a concrete bridge.

It was carrying around 100 passengers, many of whom were standing in the back.

Passing motorists and soldiers brought the injured from the accident scene in Lamitan town to the provincial capital of Isabela, Aleo said.

More than 1,000 U.S. soldiers trained Filipino troops on Basilan in a six-month counter-terrorism exercise that ended in July.

Some American troops have remained on Basilan, about 880 kilometers south of Manila, to complete humanitarian projects. *AP*

# DILG sets probe of fraud in youth leader elections

**By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.**
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

ILOILO CITY—The Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) in Western Visayas is looking into allegations that recent election for the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) president was marred with irregularities.

Rexdito Reyes, DILG regional director, said he would form a fact-finding team to review the conduct of the elections held on Aug. 18 for the whole region.

The DILG personnel would compose the fact-finding team, which would determine if the election guidelines were followed and to review the conduct of DILG representatives who presided over the activity.

Reyes said the investigation would focus only on the conduct of the elections.

"Complaints on issues outside of the conduct of the elections should be filed with the appropriate courts," Reyes told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

Iloilo City Rep. and House Deputy Speaker for the Visayas Raul Gonzalez earlier asked the DILG to nullify the results of the election, claiming that the voting had been marred by fraud and vote-buying.

Gonzalez alleged that the voters were housed and reportedly paid P3,000 to ensure the election of certain candidates.

Stevie Rey Abitang, 16, won the election after garnering 77 votes. His opponent Ara Karissa Chua got 35 votes out of the total 177 votes. Iloilo City has 180 barangays.

Gonzalez reportedly supported at least one of the losing candidates but the legislator denied this in interviews with radio stations in Iloilo City.

Twenty-one SK chairs filed a written protest before the DILG Iloilo City office, calling for the nullification of the elections and the holding of a new election under the supervision of the DILG national office.

In their three-page protest letter, the SK chairs said "serious irregularities" marred the election that "adversely" affected the results.

They accused the DILG in Iloilo City of "complicity in the fomenting of anomalies" and of manipulating the campaign and voting "notwithstanding obvious malpractices..."

But Janet Naldoza, DILG assistant city director, belied the allegations. "The election was conducted peacefully, orderly and smoothly," she said.

She said the members of the Board of Election Supervisors were in control since 8 a.m. until the election ended at 5:20 p.m.

Naldoza said she even had to admonish a group of SK chairs led by losing candidates who wanted to leave the venue of the election after the results of the voting of the president and vice president were announced.

# 'They don't look like terrorists'

From page A1

and I, they say, and definitely not a terrorist. He loves to sing, plays basketball, and laughs ahead of his jokes, which only he could understand.

Hoping to dispel government propaganda against the founder of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) following the US designation of the CPP and its military wing, the New People's Army, as foreign terrorist organizations, friends and comrades gathered yesterday over *merienda* and recalled their light moments with Sison and other exiled leaders of the National Democratic Front.

The testimonies were made interesting by pictures projected on screen, mostly of light moments spent by Sison and company in Utrecht, the Netherlands.

The crowd of more than a hundred couldn't help but burst in laughter when a picture showing Sison posing a la Michael Jordan for a free throw was flashed.

There was also a photo of Sison trying to block the shot of NDF chief negotiator Luis Jalandoni during a basketball game. They didn't look like terrorists at all.

"If they are terrorists, then the *Katipuneros* should also be called terrorists, as well as George Washington during the civil war in the United States, because they fought for change," said Noli Agcaoili, brother of another exiled NDF leader, Fidel Agcaoili.

Francisco "Dodong" Nemenzo, president of the University of the Philippines and host of the affair at his official residence on the UP campus in Diliman, Quezon City, described Sison as a "close friend despite our political differences."

Nemenzo said Sison, a former comrade at the old communist party, the Partido Komunista ng Pilipinas (PKP), always sought his advice in every major undertaking. Sison, however, bolted the PKP due to ideological differences and founded the CPP in 1968.

At the time, Sison was a professor in UP where he finished a bachelor's degree in English literature cum laude. There he founded the Student Cultural Association of the Philippines and later led the Kabataan Makabayan from where the crop of CPP leaders came.

Nemenzo recalled that he aborted a plan by PKP hardliners to assassinate Sison when he questioned the validity of the supposed order.

"We were that close that I was even suspected of being a Joma spy in the PKP," the UP president said.

Another UP professor, Luis Teodoro, now dean of the College of Mass Communications, pictured Sison as a jolly fellow whose sense of humor could be appreciated by only a few people.

Teodoro, in an essay about "Joe Sison" jokes he sent in lieu of a personal appearance, said he saw some of Sison's humor in the Associated Press photograph in which he was talking about the "contemplative life."

"Contemplative life my foot. That's another one of Joe Sison's no-punchline jokes, which as usual most people didn't get," Teodoro said.

He said no one should believe that Sison was going to retire as a political activist because "he is first and last a political creature, a philosopher who wants to change the world, and that's despite his terrible jokes."

Days after the AP story about his supposed retirement, Sison clarified that he was only being sarcastic and complained that people in Manila didn't appreciate his sense of humor.

## Favorite song

But lawyer Rene Sarmiento, member of the government peace panel who was invited to the affair, said Sison was indeed a wisecrack, who kept the negotiations lively.

"He's not only a good negotiator and consultant. He's also a good singer," Sarmiento said, pulling out pictures of him and Sison in a bar during a pause in the peace talks between the NDF and government negotiators.

Sison's favorite song? "Mao's Way."

"Are they human and humane? Yes, definitely," Sarmiento said of the NDF leaders in Utrecht.

Sarmiento said he recalled a terse moment after a dinner at a Chinese restaurant in Utrecht, when Agcaoili collected the leftovers on the table to bring to his "comrades" at the NDF international office.

"That goes to show that these people have compassion," he said.

Human rights lawyer Romeo Capulong, legal counsel to the NDF peace panel, said life in exile was not easy, contrary to black propaganda that Sison and company were living lavishly out of rebel funds.

"There was not one moment I recall that Sison and Jalandoni pulled out their wallets," said Capulong, who complained half-jokingly that he was never reimbursed for his plane fare.

"They would be glad whenever Governor Yap was around because then they get to eat at a restaurant," Capulong said.

Tarlac Gov. Apeng Yap, former chief of the government peace panel and now a consultant, said the exiled NDF leaders were "Filipinos who are pro-people and nationalists."

"What they want is what will be good for the country," Yap said in his brief message.

Relatives of Agcaoili, Jalandoni and fellow NDF leaders Coni Ledesma and Juliet de Lima, Sison's wife, also gave recollections, mostly personal bits of information on the lighter side.

## Special breed

Sen. Loren Legarda, who had had interactions with the NDF leaders during the negotiations for the release of a couple of military and police officers held captive by the NPA, described Sison and fellow revolutionaries as a "very special breed of Filipinos."

She mentioned Sison's and other NDF leaders' strong sense of humanity and magnanimity that brought freedom to the military and police officers.

"One may not necessarily agree with their alternative vision of Philippine society, but no one can doubt the integrity of their patriotism or the depth of their commitment to help bring about a more just and more human society," Legarda said in a message to the organizers.

"I look to the day Joma and the others can finally come home to our collective embrace," Legarda said.

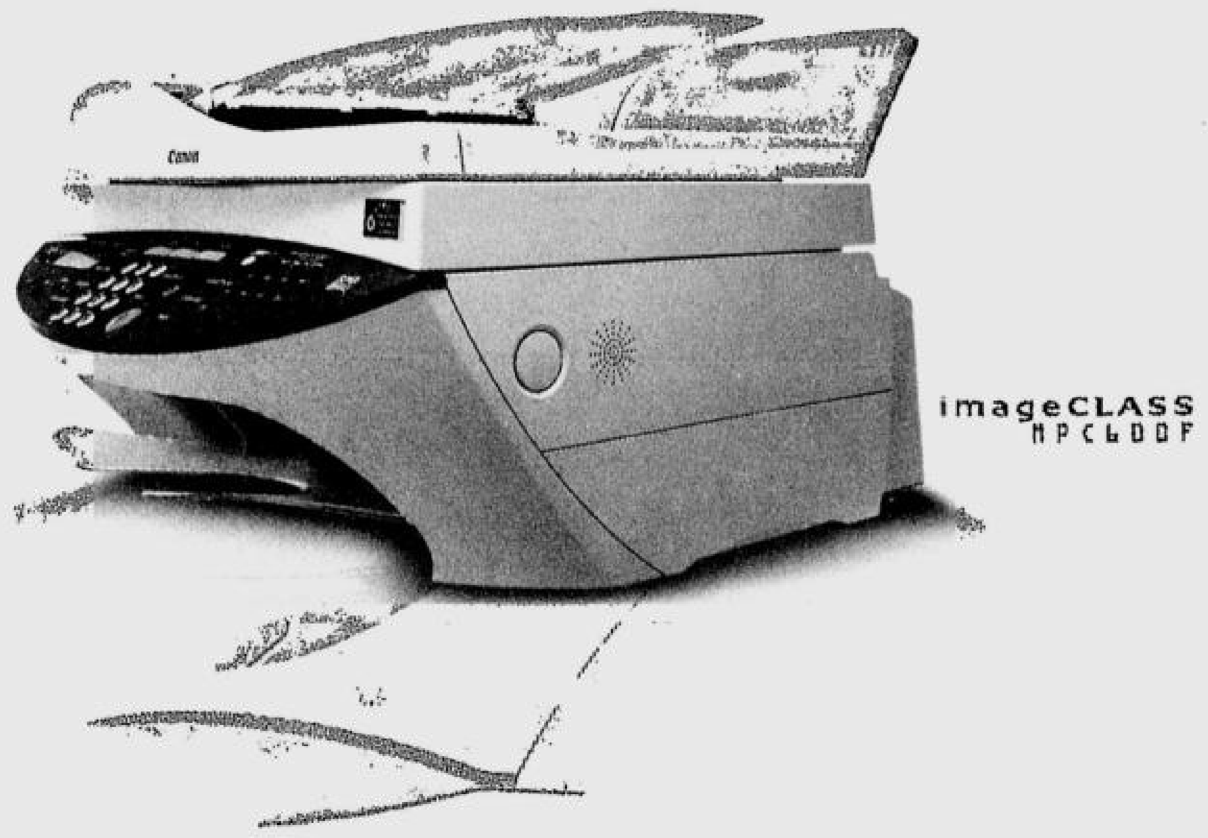
The *merienda* of pork barbecue, chicken *empanada*, sandwiches, custard cake and *buko pandan* juice, gathered activists and militants from the academe and peoples' organizations identified with the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan.

Also seen were former underground leaders now pursuing their causes in the legal front.

The affair was organized by UP professor and national artist Bien Lumbera, PlunderWatch spokesperson Fr. Joe Dizon, Jalandoni's sister Inday Jalandoni-de la Paz and Rosario Jalandoni.

After *merienda*, the participants signed a manifesto calling on President Macapagal-Arroyo to "put a stop to the apparent government campaign to demonize NDF leaders."

There is no legal, moral and political justification to label Sison, Jalandoni, Agcaoili, Ledesma and De Lima "terrorists," according to the manifesto.



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# Lawmen kill Pentagon gang leader

From page A1

neers and a South Korean trader in Mindanao in the past two years.

It is one of three Filipino groups listed as "foreign terrorist organizations" by the United States. The others are the Abu Sayyaf bandit group and the communist New People's Army.

Ms Macapagal congratulated members of the Police Anti-Crime and Emergency Response (Pacer), the PNP National Capital Region office, and the Anti-Kidnap Task Force of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Aktafp).

Technical Sgt. Willie Madayag, the soldier who killed Marohombsar and was himself wounded in the exchange of fire, belonged to the third unit.

The policeman arrested was identified as PO2 Armando Ayson of the Magallanes police station.

## Gang hideout

Based on initial information, police started searching on Saturday for the house where the kidnap gang was hiding.

Yesterday morning, Marohombsar's group was sighted at a coconut plantation in Barangay Pacheco, Magallanes, at around 8 a.m.

The Aktafp soldiers were deployed as a blocking force backing up the police units. Madayag's team, together with another seven-man military team, was positioned near a creek to outflank the kidnap gang.

At one point, Madayag moved out to check a house, carrying an M-16.

Suddenly, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Roy Cimatu later said, Marohombsar surfaced, running and firing.

Madayag was hit on the left shoulder but fired back. His bullets ripped through Marohombsar's abdomen.

The hostages, 4-year-old Patricia Lopez Chong, and her nanny Winena Jordan, were behind Marohombsar and escaped when he fell.

"It was really a clean (operation), we really wanted to rescue the hostages and kill Marohombsar and capture the others," Cimatu said.

Police spokesperson Sr. Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil also maintained that no ransom was paid.

Recovered from the scene were one .45 cal. automatic, two M-16 rifles and two Toyota FX vans.

The rescued hostages were met by members of the Lopez clan in the Presidential Security Group compound in Malacañang where they were airlifted.

"It was a very touching reunion . . . the girl was very smart. Teresita Ang-See was also there and she was very, very happy with the accomplishment," Cimatu said. Ang-See heads the anti-crime watchdog Citizens' Action Against Crime.

Madayag was recommended for the Gold Cross award, the military's third highest honor, and a promotion.

Cimatu announced the recommendation, after Madayag was rushed to the Naic Doctors' Hospital.

"His morale is high. He was wounded but I am making some commendations. I'll be giving him a medal and a promotion," Cimatu said in a chance interview.

He said the police had requested three teams from the Aktafp. He said Madayag belonged to one of the three seven-man teams of the 33rd Special Forces Company earlier pulled out from Basilan.

They were put on alert on Saturday, to beef up the police units involved in the operation.

## Escape artist

Marohombsar was captured at a Quiapo hotel in February but managed to escape, together with alleged kidnappers Abdul Macaumbang and Roland Patinio, from Camp Crame in June.

Both Patinio and Macaumabng, police said, participated in the abduction of Chong.

The President said Marohombsar, after his escape, joined forces with the so-called Villaver kidnap gang.

She added that the Villaver gang had ties with the Fajardo gang. Both are on the PNP's Order of Battle.

"So this is yet again another very big blow to these very prominent gangs," Ms Macapagal declared.

She ordered PNP chief Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. and Cimatu to go after Marohombsar's "partner," a certain Alonto Tahir, in order to destroy the Pentagon gang.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye later read a statement for the President, reminding criminals that crime does not pay.

He said the President was "all praises for the excellent teamwork and coordination" of the various elements that participated in the operation.

She also ordered the police and military to "adequately reward" the civilians who tipped law enforcers of the kidnappers' whereabouts.

"The citizens are our first line of defense in our war against crime. We thank them for their invaluable information which led to the successful recovery of the kidnap victims and the death of Marohombsar," Bunye said.

## Surrender feelers

In Cavite, the President disclosed that nothing came out of Marohombsar's surrender feelers last month since the kidnap leader imposed too many conditions.

She disclosed that Marohombsar was trying to negotiate his surrender with presidential adviser Norberto Gonzales last month when she wrongly announced that Marohombsar had already surrendered.

"At the time he was really ready to surrender but he changed his mind and gave so many conditions. Of course the government does not agree with these conditions," she said.

In published reports, Marohombsar was quoted as saying he would surrender only if kidnapping charges against him were dropped and if he and his followers were given a chance to start a new life.

Gonzales, who is also negotiating peace with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, said he had tried to convince Marohombsar to surrender by assuring him of fair treatment.

"We gave him time to give up. I told him the sooner you come in, the better for you," Gonzales said.

The Pentagon group was behind last year's abduction of Pierantoni, who was freed in April. A Chinese engineer was killed while another man was wounded in a rescue attempt after they were kidnapped by the gang.

Another kidnap victim, Pierre Belanger, of Ottawa, Canada, was rescued two days before Christmas after two months in captivity.

***With reports from Reuters, AP and AFP***

# Girl, nanny rescued . . .

From page A1

Marohombsar tried to escape the police-military dragnet. He fled his hiding place, with the victims in tow. When he tried to shoot it out with the soldiers flanking his hideout, Chong and Jordan fled to safety.

Senior Supt. Leopoldo Butaoil, spokesperson for the Philippine National Police, said the two kidnap victims were "OK," with the nanny suffering bruises on her knees because she fell when they ran away from their abductors.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye later told reporters that the President would no longer present the 4-year-old victim in Malacañang due to her age.

The Pentagon gang—which the United States lists as a foreign terrorist group—is believed to be composed of renegade members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the biggest Moro rebel group in the country. ***Reports from Martin Marfil, Reuters, AFP and AP***

# Bad vibes pounding Caliraya spillway

From page A1

fests itself through vibrations in the spillway.

The increase in generating capacity from 32 megawatts when a small power plant in the complex went into operation in 1941 to 300 MW today has created more stress for the spillway, which prevents the dam that keeps water inside the Caliraya Lake from bursting.

Along the path of water from the Caliraya Lake are creeks, rivers, hundreds of hectares of farms, and at least 15,000 houses in three Laguna towns with elevations lower than that of the lake.

## Cracks, leaks

The spillway has valves that are opened when water starts to overflow in the lake. But several years ago, water leaks out even when there is no overflow and the valves are closed, according to Lumague.

It was discovered that the concrete foundation on which the spillway stands has cracks.

These cracks let water, with pressure stronger than that of a sledgehammer hitting a wall, pound on 4-meter-wide pipes embedded in the foundation that carry water out of the lake at a controlled rate when the valves are open.

The pressure causes the pipes to pound on steel rings holding them together, constantly scraping away portions of the rings.

"Sometimes, we see portions of the steel rings in the river (to which water spilling from the lake drains)," Lumague said.

To keep the spillway standing, Lumague said Napocor used to hire contractors to do repair work consisting mainly of searching for the cracks, inserting pipes into them with the pipes' ends jutting out of the water surface, and then pouring cement into the cracks through these pipes.

"We plug the holes," he said.

Each repair costs the government P20 million. The repairs were done every year or sometimes every two years since the cracks were discovered in 1991. But the repairs stopped four years ago.

Lumague holds up a blueprint of one of the repair works done on the cracks.

A NEW Caliraya spillway is being constructed to replace the old facility, which is reportedly suffering from "thermal stress" and showing signs of deterioration.

On the blueprint is a drawing of a circle. On the circle are drawn what appeared to be like perforations in an embroidery pattern—numerous dots.

"Those are the cracks," said Lumague, pointing to the dots. "Imagine how many they are."

In 1998, rumors of the dam bursting spread in towns near the Caliraya Lake, forcing the provincial government of Laguna and officials of the towns to demand an explanation from Napocor.

Lumague recalls attending one of the meetings during which he gave assurances that the dam is stable. But he said he didn't mention anything about the spillway at that time. "I didn't want to create panic," he said.

There was no concern over water gushing out of the Caliraya Lake years earlier.

## Church belfry

In 1992, at the height of the El Niño phenomenon, workers at the CBK complex recalled seeing the belfry of a church jutting out of the surface of the lake. It was the church of the village that was submerged in 1939 to create what is now Caliraya Lake.

Today, Lumague is worried that the four-year pause in the repair of the spillway may lead to disaster, bigger than what befell Barrio Caliraya when it had to be submerged to start the country's affair with power plants.

Lumague said the repair stopped in 1998 when the CBK complex was turned over from Napocor to Industrias Metalurgicas Pescarmona Sociedad (Impsa), an Argentine firm, under a build-rehabilitate-operate-turnover contract approved by the Philippine government.

The contract, which Lumague said was also filled with cracks, required Impsa to build a new spillway to replace the old one, which was given the name "Morning Glory," within a year after the contract took effect.

The new spillway is under construction. Payloaders, heavy construction equipment, lorries and bulldozers tread the two-lane road leading to the old spillway.

Steel bars as thick as arms are waiting to be used on one side of the construction site.

## Delayed

But a report of the New Zealand-based power plant design specialist Meritec Ltd., which was hired by the Philippine government to examine Impsa's compliance with the CBK contract, said land disputes were delaying the construction of the new spillway.

Individuals are claiming to own pieces of property on which the new spillway would pass.

In the meantime, the CBK plants continue to generate 300 MW of electricity, with plans to increase the capacity to more than 700 MW through an additional plant, amid concerns over the pause in the maintenance of the spillway.

In a community at the foot of the dam that is home to Romulo de Robles, a retired Napocor worker, no signs of concern are visible.

Development has crept into the village through concrete that filled short gaps in a network of dusty, rock-hewn streets, electric wires strung to a series of wooden poles barely exceeding the height of the houses' roofs, and antennas that signify TVs in the homes.

De Robles, 67, said the construction of the new spillway and power plant at the CBK provided jobs to residents of his community.

Together with the jobs came awareness of the problems in the old spillway.

*"Talagang nag-ba-vibrate* (The spillway really vibrates). *Marupok na talaga,"* he said.

Children running playfully on the dusty streets, residents peering out of their windows at strangers who come visiting, men resting their carabaos on their homes' front yards don't project a sense of alarm over the spillway's deterioration.

*"Panginoon na lang ang nakakaalam* (Only God knows)" was De Robles' reply when asked if residents worry over the spillway.

About 7 km from the CBK complex, Lumague points to a narrow bridge over a river downstream of the Caliraya Lake where women do their laundry and where, in 1996, he said people were killed after heavy rains dumped hundreds of tons of water and caused the river to swell.

"That was a disaster only God could have stopped," he said.

# Village docs to earn management degrees

From page A1

couraged. Yet, their dedication will never be enough to solve the country's present health situation," said Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit at the formal launching of the Leaders for Health Project (LHP) here on Aug. 20. ***(See related story in Across the Nation, Page A14.)***

Dayrit said the challenge of delivering health care in the countryside was so great that a person or an agency could not solve it alone.

In fact, despite all the projects launched by the DOH in the past, about 40 percent of the country's population still goes through life without ever seeing a doctor.

Aware of such reality, Solis chose to stay in Jiabong town, missing the wake of his mother during the formal launching and the burial the next day.

A graduate of the University of the Philippines' Integrated School here, he earns about P26,000 monthly, including a P5,000 per diem on his present assignment.

In launching the LHP, the DOH teamed up with the Ateneo Graduate School of Business and the Pfizer Philippines Foundation.

The pilot areas of the LHP include municipalities in Camarines Sur, Samar, Biliran and Surigao del Norte.

"Apart from training doctors, this project will empower the local chief executives, community leaders and constituents of the municipalities to give more importance to their health," Dayrit said.

Apart from the Master's Degree in Health Care Management that the volunteer doctors will earn after two years, the project will enable local chief executives and community leaders to undergo training workshops in capacity enhancement to be provided by Ateneo.

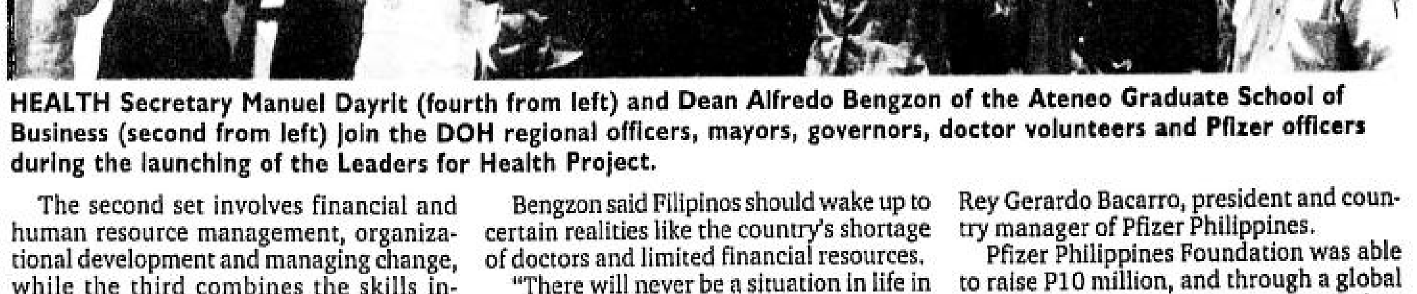
"These local leaders will be very much involved as the success of their respective doctors in getting their degrees will also depend on them," explains Dr. Alfredo Bengzon, dean of the Ateneo de Manila University's Graduate School of Business.

The course is intended to give doctors a better understanding of how certain issues should be addressed. Participants will attend a 10-day session at the Ateneo Graduate School of Business every four months.

"The participants had their first 10 days early this month and will be followed in November and every quarter thereafter," said Dr. Marife Yap, associate director of the AdMU's Health Unit.

Health Care Management is divided into three parts: Core Foundational Courses, Management and Organizational Courses and Integrative Courses.

The first set of courses is aimed at widening the participants' understanding of the health sector and helping them identify the various players involved. The subjects include public policies and governance.



HEALTH Secretary Manuel Dayrit (fourth from left) and Dean Alfredo Bengzon of the Ateneo Graduate School of Business (second from left) join the DOH regional officers, mayors, governors, doctor volunteers and Pfizer officers during the launching of the Leaders for Health Project.

The second set involves financial and human resource management, organizational development and managing change, while the third combines the skills involved in the first two sets.

"The subjects included here (third set) are aimed at making doctors understand the health sector better by equipping them with management and sociological skills and with knowledge orientation so that they can become more effective leaders in the community," Yap said.

"We have to put an end to a national nightmare in many parts of our country, which is health being an illusion," said Bengzon, who served as health secretary during the Aquino administration.

Bengzon said Filipinos should wake up to certain realities like the country's shortage of doctors and limited financial resources.

"There will never be a situation in life in which there are enough doctors or enough money. How to use these limited amount of resources and how to involve as many parties as possible in the endeavor are important. This is what LHP is all about," he said.

On the part of Pfizer, the LHP is an opportunity for the company to engage in a project with more profound and lasting impact on the country.

"We were thinking before whether to support a medical mission or give donations just like what we had been doing. Then we heard about this project," said Rey Gerardo Bacarro, president and country manager of Pfizer Philippines.

Pfizer Philippines Foundation was able to raise P10 million, and through a global matching fund for the company's key projects (for every amount a local Pfizer foundation raises, Pfizer headquarters in New York will raise the same amount), the organization was able to double the amount to P20 million. The money will support the LHP participants for two years.

"The success of this program will lead not only to the prevention and reduction of disease and disability in the countryside," Bacarro said. "We will also be able to create an environment in which people can lead productive and rewarding lives."

# Surrender feelers led nowhere

From page A1

According to Marohombsar's own account, he and his fellow detainees simply scaled the three-layer fence at the back of the detention cell in Camp Crame in the middle of the night and then "casually walked" to freedom. He said he hailed a taxi and headed for the airport, where he then took a flight to Davao City.

Either Marohombsar led a charmed life, or certain police officials found him charming, or, at the very least, useful.

The presence of policemen during key events in his life is almost a constant: A policeman was taken in for questioning on the day Marohombsar was arrested in Quiapo; a policeman was arrested yesterday during the raid in Magallanes, Cavite, that led to Marohombar's death.

He had himself also named top government officials as partners in kidnapping ventures, which the officials promptly denied.

## Surrenderee

Marohombsar joined the Moro National Liberation Front under Nur Misuari in the late 1970s, establishing his base in the coastal town of Malabang in Lanao del Sur.

In the early 1980s, he surrendered to the government under the Balik-Baril of the National Reconciliation and Development Program.

Right after his surrender, Marohombsar worked as a security guard at the state-owned Mindanao State University in Marawi City, during the term of then MSU president Emily Marohombsar, a relative.

He later turned to banditry.

In 1999, he publicly announced his group's abduction of a woman doctor in Parang, Maguindanao. He justified the kidnapping as part of an effort to get the government's attention regarding the non-release of the livelihood funds his group had been promised when they surrendered.

"When I surrendered, we waited in vain for the livelihood funds. Nothing came. We were fooled," Marohombsar had said then.

Last year, however, he revealed in a radio interview that his main reason for turning to banditry was the piece-meal killing of his men.

"Slowly, government intelligence operatives were executing my men one by one. Before they could kill me, I decided to return to kidnapping because money there comes easy," he said.

Marohombsar forged an alliance with remnants of the Mubarak kidnap-for-ransom group; the alliance eventually came to be known as the Pentagon, and Marohombsar as Commander Mubarak II.

## Series of abductions

Marohombsar was widely believed to be involved in the series of abductions that hit the MSU and the National Power Corp. several years ago.

Other kidnapping victims included Italian priest Luciano Benedetti, the four Chinese engineers working in an irrigation project in Carmen, Cotabato, and Canadian Pierre Belanger. He strongly denied participation in the kidnapping of Italian priest Giuseppe Pierantoni, however.

Ebdane, now chief of the Philippine National Police, said in February that Marohombsar was not behind the Pierantoni abduction.

"That's only in the newspapers," Ebdane said then. He said the priest, popularly known as Father Beppe, was abducted last October in Dimataling, Zamboanga del Sur, by a small gang with no connection to the Pentagon.

In December last year, Faisal started to send surrender feelers. He later claimed that Malacañang wanted him to help in the release of Pierantoni before his surrender could be discussed.

But while he was willing to surrender, police and military authorities continued to hunt him down.

On June 19, however, or two days before his 45th birthday, Marohombsar escaped from his prison cell in Camp Crame. He said a PNP official's attempt to convert him to Christianity prompted him to escape.

"We were being forced to join and become members of a born-again group inside the prison cell. That is against my religion," he said a few days after his escape. Marohombsar was a Maranao Muslim.

"I was ready to face all the charges against me but when they started forcing us, physically and mentally, to join the religious group operating inside the center, I started to plan my escape," he said.

He sent surrender feelers again on June 22, and was in negotiation with Presidential Adviser Norberto Gonzales when President Macapagal-Arroyo wrongly announced that he had been arrested.

Marohombsar was reportedly the cousin of a police senior superintendent who has been ordered relieved pending an internal investigation.

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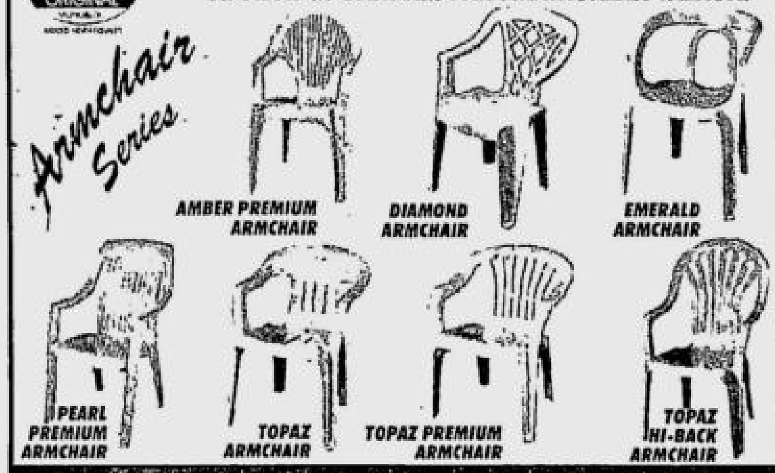

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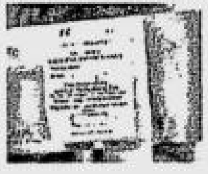

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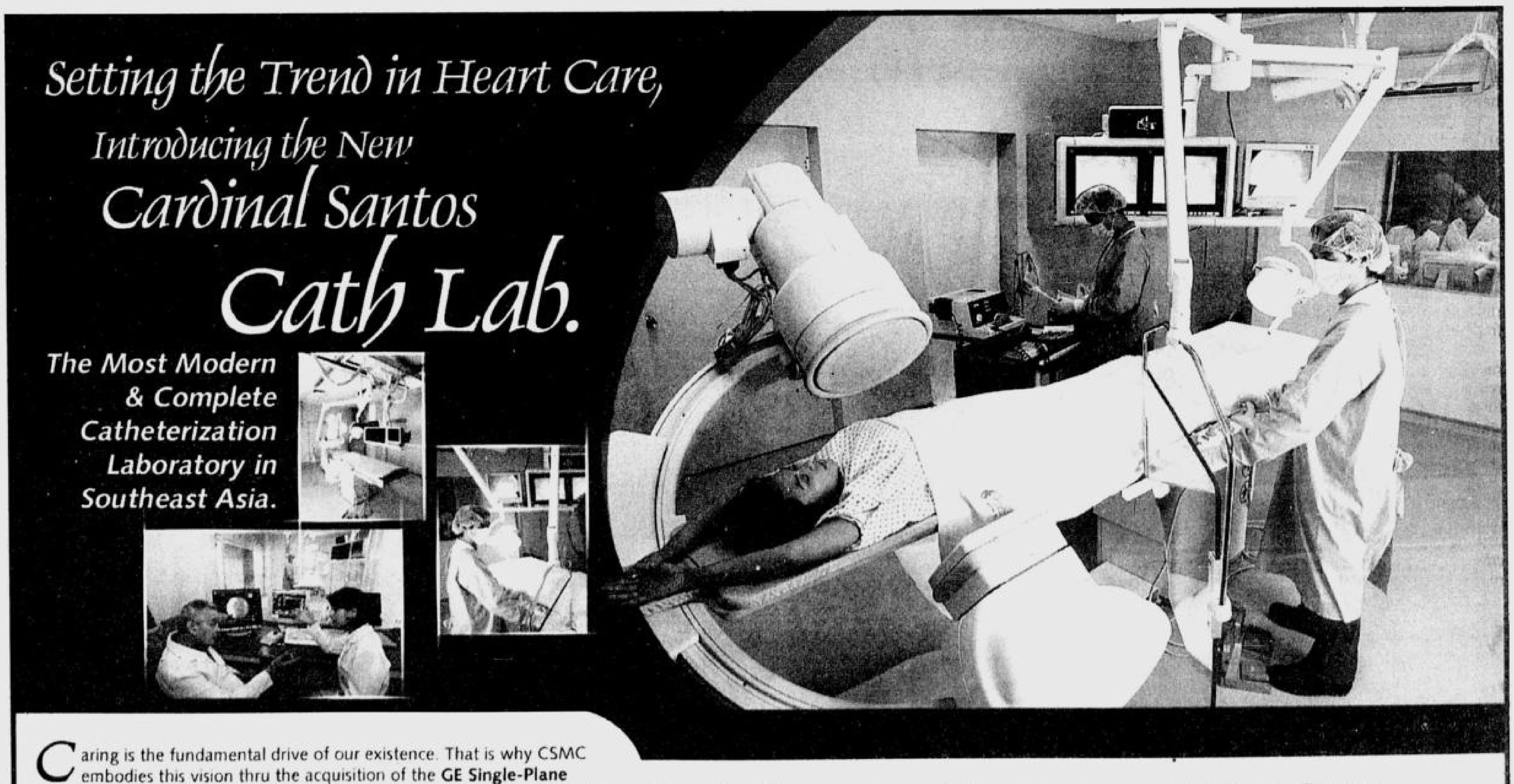
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# SPORTS

Editor Al S. Mendoza ◎ Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

### RP Youth battles Chinese-Taipei

IT'S the RP-Burlington Young Men's Team turn to test the mettle of Chinese-Taipei in an exhibition game at 5:30 p.m. today at the Tinga Gym in Taguig. Reinforced by Romel Adducul, the Filipinos ruled the recent Super League in Hong Kong where they bested the Chinese (Guandong) for the crown.

*Roy Luarca*

## PBA TO SUMMON PLAYERS, OFFICIALS

# Red Bull, Talk N Text erect 2-0 leads

By June Navarro

**GAMES WEDNESDAY**
(Philsports Arena)
5:30 p.m.—Alaska vs Talk N Text
7:30 p.m.—San Miguel vs Red Bull

**TERQUINN Mott failed to deliver in the stretch for San Miguel Beer as Batang Red Bull escaped with an 83-80 victory and took a commanding 2-0 lead in the semifinals of the PBA Commissioner's Cup at the Araneta Coliseum last night.**

Mott flubbed a point-blank shot and committed a passing error intended for Shea Seals in the dying seconds to complete a night of disaster for the Beermen.

Earlier, Mott held Red Bull's Tony Lang by the neck on the way to the dugout, triggering a near free-for-all at halftime.

"What Mott did was a barbaric act. He should be jailed for that," said Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao, whose Thunder are now eyeing a sweep on Wednesday.

Talk N Text coach Bill Bayno, who joined the fray after witnessing the ugly scene, and San Miguel Beer assistant coach Art de la Cruz provided a side show after they nearly came to blows.

Players and officials of Batang Red Bull and San Miguel Beer will be summoned tomorrow at 10:30 a.m. at the Commissioner's Office.

"I think they've tried everything to beat us, they even tried taking Lang's head," said Guiao.

History seems to be on the Thunder's side as the Beermen have never been down 0-2 in its 13 previous best-of-five semifinal appearances.

In the second game, Talk N Text withstood the ejection of Bayno and rode on the exploits of Jerald Honeycutt to prevail, 87-79, and post a 2-0 edge over Alaska.

Bayno was thrown out of the ballgame midway in the third quarter after committing two technical fouls for arguing with the referees.

Talk N Text assistant coach Ariel Vanguardia took over and got handsome figures from Honeycutt, who scored 14 of his 35 points in the fourth quarter on top of 14 rebounds, four assists and four steals.

**Scores:**

**RED BULL 83**—Lang 32, Nwosu 13, Miller 10, Tugade 9, Harp 7, Valenzuela 5, Torion 4, Hizon 3, Locsin 0.

**SAN MIGUEL 80**—Seals 23, Mott 19, Lago 12, Victoria 9, Belasco 8, Pena 6, Mente 3, Gamboa 0.

Quarters: 26-15, 46-41, 63-58, 83-80.

# Archers zoom to 10th straight victory; Tigers edge Falcons

By Dennis U. Eroa

MIGHTY La Salle claimed its 10th straight victim as it downed National University, 104-100, in the UAAP basketball tournament yesterday at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

La Salle, which is trying to achieve the rare five-peat, failed to get big games from their starters but was bolstered by the determined plays of shock troopers BJ Manalo, Willy Wilson, Junjun Cabatu and Tyrone Tang.

In the first game, University of Santo Tomas needed two overtimes to subdue Adamson, 92-88, boosting its Final Four bid with its sixth win in 10 games.

"We were quite relax at the start. NU is always tough to beat because of its size. I expected this kind of game from my players because they were fresh from a hard, hard game against UST," La Salle coach Franz Pumaren said.

The Green Archers are now a victory away from the twice-to-beat incentive in the Final Four, but Pumaren isn't ready to celebrate yet. La Salle is also four wins short of tying UST's record 14-game sweep in 1993.

The Bulldogs tore the Archers' defense in the first period to take a 30-14 lead but just like in their past games, Pumaren's charges weren't in the mood to raise the white flag.

As Mike Cortez, Carlo Sharma and Joseph Yeo struggled, Manalo, Tang and Wilson shone. Wilson poured in 21 points, while Tang added 8 but it was Manalo who thrilled the crowd with his razzle-dazzle plays.

Back after a foot injury, Manalo banged in 18 points on top of 6 rebonds, 4 assists and 2 steals in 16 minutes of action. He hit a triple and soared for an easy twinner as La Salle took a 96-86 bubble, 5:28 left.

NU fought back through the hot hands of Jeff Napa, but Manalo showed nerves of steel as he iced La Salle's win with two gift shots which pegged the final score, 7 seconds left.

**First game:**

**UST 92**—Vizcarra 21, Baguio 17, De Guzman 15, Espiritu 14, Luanzon 8, Hubalde 8, Gelig 3, Del Rosario 2, Manansala 2, Raterta 2, Villamin 0.

**ADAMSON 88**—Abadia 16, Mangulabnan 14, Tagupa 13, Alonzo 11, Catabay 10, Tiongco 8, Tajonera 6, Mamaclay 4, Rolan 4, Gandarosa 2, Ferrer 0.

Quarters: 17-11, 35-33, 58-57, 74-74 (reg), 85-85 (1st OT), 92-88 (2nd OT)

**Second game:**

**LA SALLE 104**—Wilson 21, Manalo 18, Cardona 18, Cabatu 13, Sharma 9, Yeo 8, Tang 8, Sta. Maria 4, Cortes 3, Vainio 2, Aquino 0

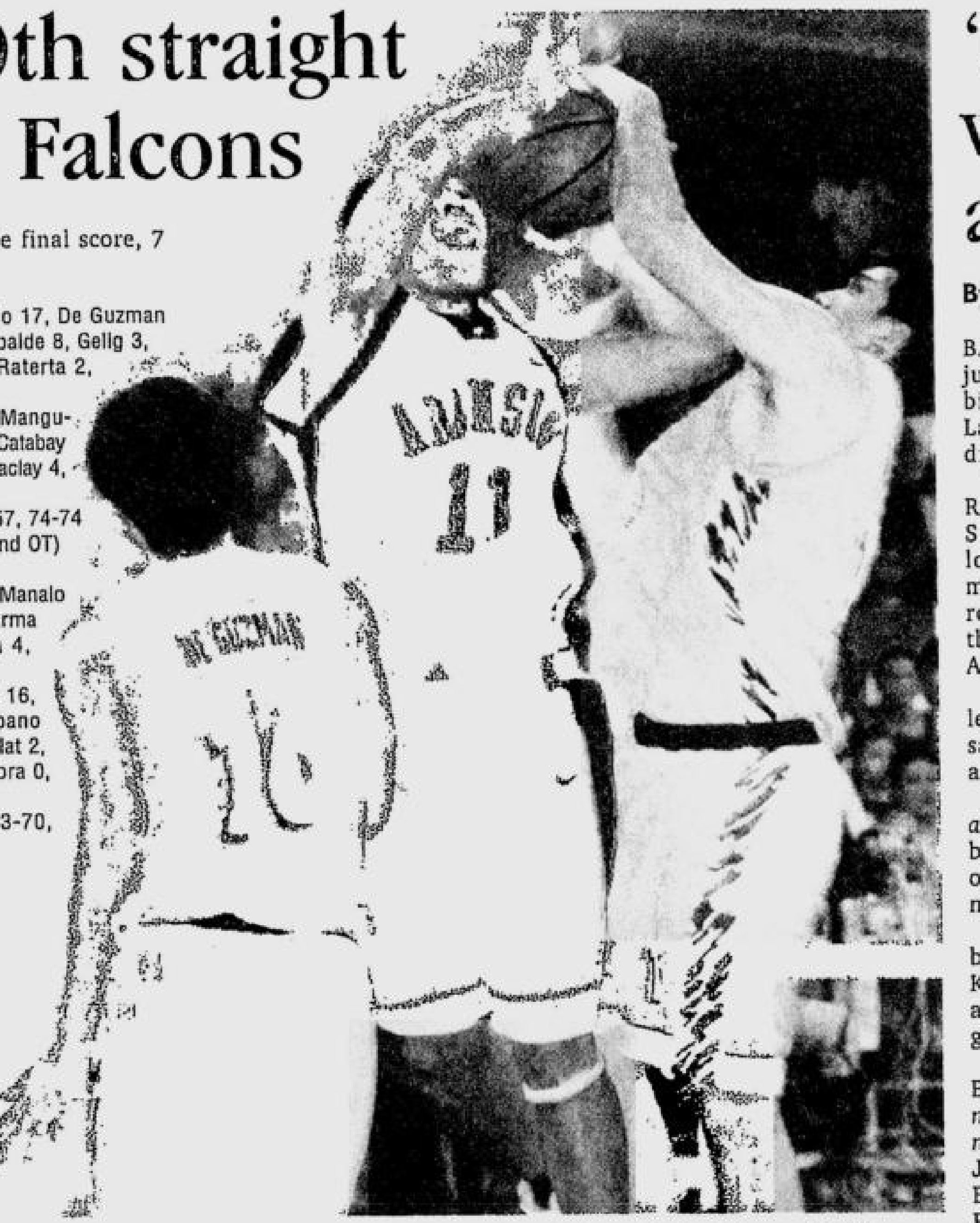
**NU 100**—Napa 31, Grijaldo 16, Mendoza 13, Baguion 12, Urbano 12, Santico 5, Tolentino 5, Miclat 2, Arcellaga 2, Cajayon 2, Catamora 0, Balijon 0.

Quarters: 16-30, 50-52, 73-70, 104-100.

### NCAA today

**GAMES TODAY**
(RM Coliseum)
11:30 a.m.—Mapua vs PCU (jrs/srs)
4 p.m.—SSC vs San Beda (jrs/srs)

SAN Sebastian College, riding high on a seven-game run, tries to seize the solo leadership against the San Beda Red Lions today in the NCAA basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.



**PIVOTMAN Alwyn Espiritu of UST (right) forces a jumpball on a driving Adamson's Edilberto Mangulabnan as teammate Rene de Guzman tries to get out of harm's way in their UAAP game yesterday at the Rizal Coliseum. The Tigers won in double overtime, 92-88.** JESS YUSON

# 'Batangas' whips rivals at San Lazaro

By Edwin Villanueva

P. MENDOZA

BATANGAS Entry just loves to win it big at the San Lazaro Hippodrome.

Yesterday, the Rudy Mendoza Stable's No. 1 galloper flexed his might again by routing the field in the Pagcor Stakes, highlight event of the Alay sa Kawal Cup festival.

Batangas Entry was denied the early lead but showed the bigger kicks just the same to score the victory, his third major at the historic racetrack.

"*Masayang masaya ang buong kwadra at siyempre lalo na si Tatay,*" said basketball star Paolo Mendoza, Batangas Entry's owner whose father, sportsman-businessman Rudy, is the colt's trainer.

Barging out from the outermost seventh box, Batangas Entry ran second to Arriba King in the early going before Pat Dilema asked him for the juice to grab the lead for good nearing the far turn.

"*Maraming mabilis kaya bilin sa kin ni* Boss Rudy *at* Nick Atienza *isunod lang muna at maganda naman ang responde nang bitawan ko,*" said Dilema, the 2001 Jockey of the Year who also masterminded Batangas Entry's wins in the recent Founders' Cup and last year's Philtobo 3-Year-Old Colts contest at the SLH.

Batangas Entry, who bagged the P200,000 champion's prize, will next run either in the Grand Derby or Philtobo Cup, according to Atienza, Rudy Mendoza's assistant in conditioning the son of Piker and Because Milady.

Longshot Hazmoore wound up three lengths off Batangas Entry, while Master Ijhay arrived third followed by Bull Rider, Arriba King and Sunny Contender. Sky Hawk was scratched. Winning time over the 1,500-meter race was a fast 1:32 and 2/5.

Earlier in the day, Class C rider RC Ducay guided Kitty Hawk to first place in the Petron Stakes.

The Alay sa Kawal Cup got off Saturday with Hermie Esguerra's Kayang Kaya and Magical Mark ruling both featured races on tap.

# President's Cup staked in Q Games

THE PRESIDENTIAL Cup will be staked when the Quest for Excellence competitions in sports, academics and the arts unfold in October.

Close to 50 of the country's leading schools are competing in the inaugural Q Games, a tri-level competition that runs up to February next year.

The sportsfest will be handled by competent groups under the Quest for Excellence, which tapped able leaders in sports, arts and academics for what could be the biggest gathering yet of schools and universities under one umbrella.

The Q Games production team also involves some of the most respected groups in sports, including Nic Jorge of Milo Best, Ramon Tuason of the Metropolitan Basketball Association, organizers of the Checkmate chess series and Bong Barrameda, best known as quiz shows consultant who also handled may sports competitions including the now defunct Marlboro Tour.

Forty-seven schools and universities, including members of the University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP) and the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), have attended the first Q Games assembly last August and have expressed interest in joining the project.

Competitions in basketball, volleyball, soccer, chess and billiards make up the initial roster of the Q Games' sports events. A cheerleading competition is also lined up.

Quest for Excellence officials also gave equal weight to academic excellence and have lined up competitions in match, science, social studies, history, humanities, spelling competition, declamation, extemporaneous speech and debate.

Antonio Valdez, vice chair on the company, also said his group would like to see a future renaissance in Philippine arts and will begin with competitions in children's chorale, solo singing, dance, band, and art and creativity.

"The Q Games are our contribution to all our efforts in showing the Filipino's excellence to the world. While most competitions are focused mainly on sports, we also would like to encourage friendly competitions in the arts and academics," Valdez said.

Corresponding points will be given to each category winner with the champion school receiving a commemorative trophy.

There will be an overall champion in each of the grade school, high school and collegiate categories based on the cumulative points earned from the various competitions listed. A commemorative trophy will also be given to the level winners.

# Manila Golf rules Luzvimin tourney

MANILA Golf Club withstood the challenge of its southern rivals to win the Pearl division even as Sta. Elena and Lora Roberto of Southwoods shared top honors in the centerpiece division of the recent WGAP-Luzvimin Invitational tournament at the Cebu Country Club course.

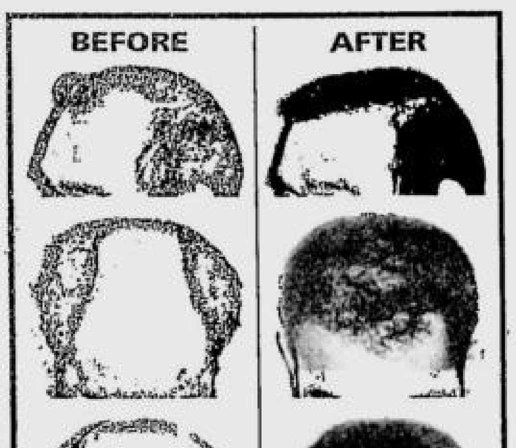
Maridol Mabanta, clinching runner-up honors in individual play, led teammates Cora Suntay, Isa Velayo, Kay Tachi, Regina Zulueta and Letty Laurel to victory over Marapara.

Sta. Elena re-affirmed its supremacy in the Diamond division, turning back the challenge of Del Monte while Villamor emerged on top in the Ruby division.

The well-balanced Sta. Elena squad made up of Carina Ricamonte , Nancy Ortiga, Therese Dabao, Rio Co, Lily Chan and Venice Godio overwhlemed the opposition to notch a back-to-back romp of the crown.

### BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1990, the Philippines notched an 864 windup to surpass its previous best of 868 and capture the 30th South East Amateur Golf Championship in Singapore. Also today in 1991, Willie de Tomas shot a one-over-par 73 to post a one-shot victory over Danny Zarate in the third leg of the Philip Morris Golf Classic series in Davao City.



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# Eagle Ridge GC offers weekend tournaments

WEEKENDS are always big at the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club. There are enough holes for good play and the company to enjoy.

When most courses in Metro Manila often shut their doors to walk-in guests Saturdays and Sundays due to the many limits of their exclusivity, Eagle Ridge goes the extra mile and offers something irresistible: tournaments.

Taking advantage of its four-course asset, the country's biggest sports complex has launched another interesting package which allows both medium and big scale events at Eagle Ridge even on weekends.

The package includes having your own course and a clubhouse without the usual hassle of having to mix with the weekend crowd. It even extends to as far as Eagle Ridge organizing the entire tournament for companies needing such service.

Although the Aoki course and 9-hole Norman side are reserved for members on weekends, the club allows guests/walk-ins at the Faldo and Dye layouts.

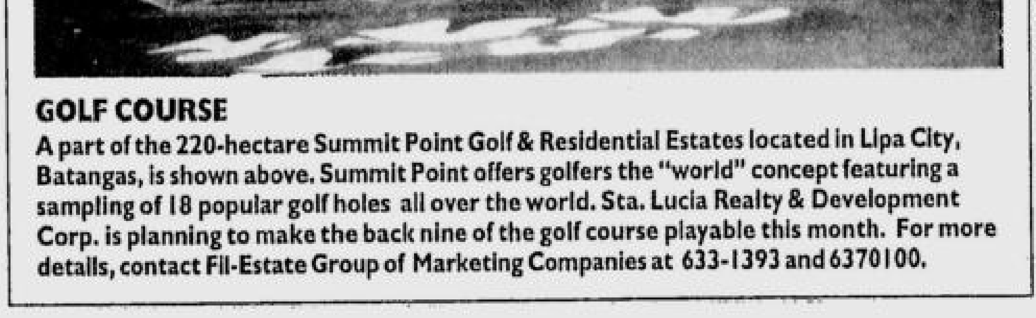
What makes Eagle an organizers' haven is that it has three clubhouses, one for Aoki, another for Dye and the main golf clubhouse the locker rooms of which are spacious enough for 250 players.

Tourist arrivals have been steadily increasing not just because of the variety of choices for golf challenges from the friendly Aoki to the difficult Dye but also with the way the excellent conditions of the courses are being kept.

Eagle Ridge is the flagship golf and residential development project of real estate giant Sta. Lucia Realty and Alsons Land Corp.

Meanwhile, Leandro Javier ruled Class A in the members monthly medal tournament recently sponsored by Callaway at the Aoki course.

Other winners were Jae Sim in Class B, Jose Cedo in Class C, Emmanuel Lim in Class D and Imelda Agustin in the ladies division. On Aug. 29, Antonio Castro eyes a repeat victory in the monthly seniors tournament.

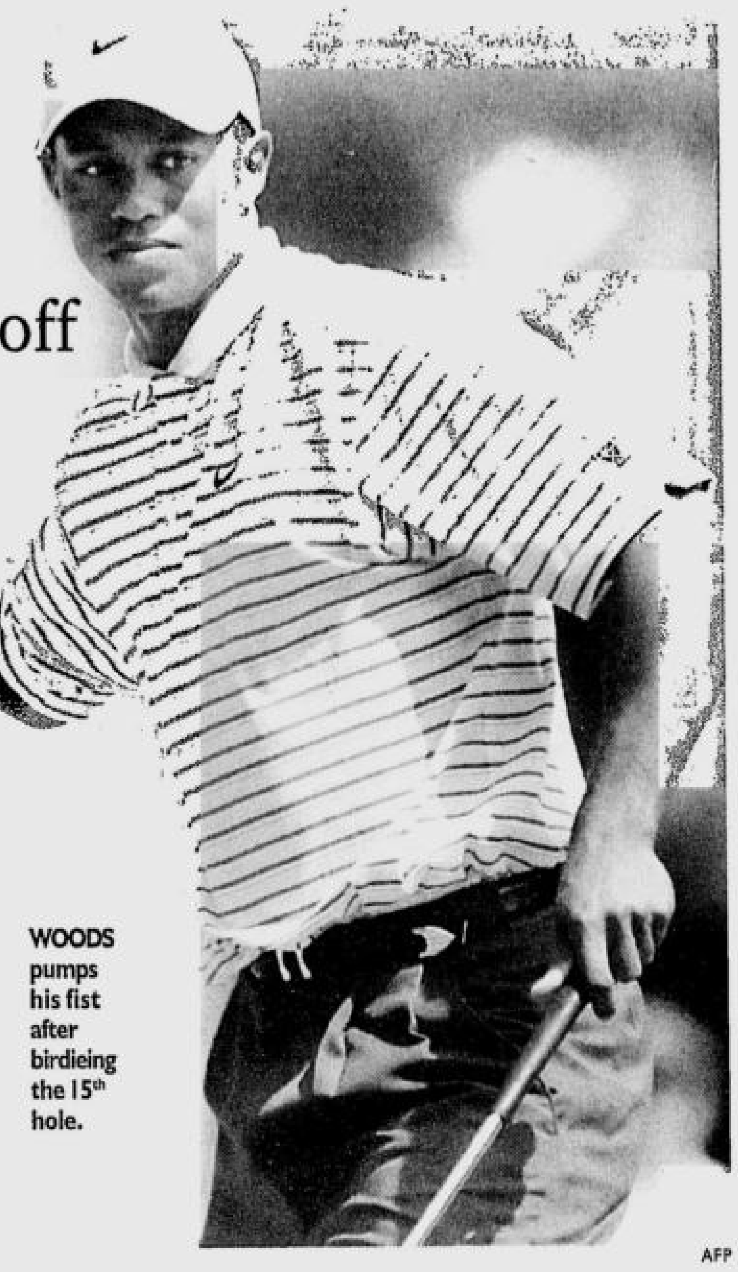


**GOLF COURSE**

**A part of the 220-hectare Summit Point Golf & Residential Estates located in Lipa City, Batangas, is shown above. Summit Point offers golfers the "world" concept featuring a sampling of 18 popular golf holes all over the world. Sta. Lucia Realty & Development Corp. is planning to make the back nine of the golf course playable this month. For more details, contact Fil-Estate Group of Marketing Companies at 633-1393 and 6370100.**

# Allenby, Parry up

## Tiger just 2 strokes off



WOODS pumps his fist after birdieing the 15th hole.

AFP

**SAMMAMISH, Washington —Robert Allenby's long eagle putt on the 18th hole came up one turn short Saturday, leaving him in a share of the lead, the same spot where he started a topsy-turvy round in the NEC Invitational.**

Only now, he has a lot of company—including Tiger Woods.

Allenby overcame an early double bogey for an even-par 71 at Sahalee Country Club, joining fellow Aussie Craig Parry (66) in the lead at 10-under 203 heading into the final round of the $5 million World Golf Championship event.

Woods was among the leaders until making bogey on his last two holes, but still managed a 67 and was two strokes behind in his bid to become the first player in 75 years to win the same event four years in a row.

Woods will play with Ernie Els, also at 8-under 205, with Phil Mickelson and Vijay Singh among those who were another stroke behind.

In all, a dozen players were separated by four strokes.

Woods also trailed by two strokes last year in the NEC Invitational at Firestone, beating Jim Furyk in a seven-hole playoff.

Allenby is a four-time winner on the PGA Tour, although he has never won a tournament of this stature.

Parry has never won on the PGA Tour in 235 starts, and hasn't been in this position since he had the 54-hole lead in the 1995 Colonial—a year before Woods turned pro.

One stroke behind was golf's latest wild-and-crazy guy, Fred Funk, who found a new flock of fans in Seattle by holing a bunker shot on the 17th hole for a 68. *AP*

**3rd round scores:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Craig Parry | 72-65-66-203 |
| Robert Allenby | 69-63-71-203 |
| Fred Funk | 68-68-68-204 |
| Ernie Els | 71-67-67-205 |
| Tiger Woods | 68-70-67-205 |
| Matt Gogel | 68-69-68-205 |
| Jim Furyk | 70-67-68-205 |
| Steve Lowery | 67-65-73-205 |
| Vijay Singh | 68-69-69-206 |
| Justin Rose | 67-67-72-206 |
| Phil Mickelson | 66-69-71-206 |
| Retief Goosen | 65-68-74-207 |

# Big finish by Siodina

MARIO Siodina, given a chance to resuscitate his career, responded to challenge with a closing one-over-par 73 yesterday to finish tied for 35th in the $600,000 Fancl Seniors Golf Classic at the Susono Country Club in Japan.

After shooting earlier rounds of 74 and 76, Siodina wound up with a 223 aggregate in a mighty charge that drew praises from Kenji Ikemori, president of the Fancl firm who invited him to the 54-hole tourney which is the biggest seniors event in Asia.

Siodina went home with $3,500 (almost P180,000).

As soon as he holed out, Fancl officials sent the 53-year-old Siodina to near tears when they told the Filipino legend that he's going to be invited again next year due to his impressive finish. He was one of only three players given special invitations, joining the over 100 starters.

Katsunari Takahashi won the tourney with a 70-211. The win was worth $150,000.

In the Mercuries Masters in Taiwan, Danny Zarate fired a 70 to tie for 10th with a 283 aggregate. He won $5,307 (about P275,000). Gerald Rosales shot 67-284 to share 15th while Mars Pucay placed 40th with 74-292.

# Manalo , Garcia elected to key Federation posts

A CONSOLIDATION of forces was achieved in the Federation of Golf Clubs Phils. Inc. after Ogie Manalo and Richie Garcia were installed president and chairman, respectively, by acclamation during the recent FGCPI elections.

Manalo, former president of Alabang and a director of PNOC, and Garcia, the former Philippine Sports Commissioner, head a powerful board made up of the who's who in the golf community.

Also voted were Earl McCarthy (vice chair), Tito Avancena (vice president for finance), John Blanch (VP for development), Tom Clemente (VP for special events), Rudy Samson (treasurer), Bugs Unchuan (asst. treasurer) and directors Nick Celdran, Jeric Hechanova and Luigi Yulo.

Joe Crespo was appointed corporate secretary, Junie Ledesma secretary general, Popoy Flores auditor and Manny Chan Jr. legal consultant. Committee heads are Jose Abejo and Dr. Carlo Magno for senior reciprocity, Andy Maglipon for handicapping, Hechanova and Bones Floro for tournaments, John Blanch and Cliff Friedman for tourism and Jack Imperial for junior golf.

The new board is tasked to sustain the gains of the ongoing Federation Golf League, implement the goals of the forthcoming First Gentleman's Philippine professional circuit and work on a no-nonsense tourism program.

Meanwhile, Canlubang checked its skid with a shocker of its own as it halted defending champion Forest Hills's three-match streak with a 3-1 victory in the weekend matches closing the first round of action in the Federation League.

Forest Hills (9 points), however, remained on top in Group III despite the loss but Canlubang (8) leapt to third with the big win just half a point behind Manila Golf.

Eastridge and Wack Wack handed Royal Northwoods back-to-back losses during the week, paving the way for Valley to forge a tie for the top spot at 5 points. *Jong Arcano*

# Upsets rock 9-ball tilt

UNHERALDED Filipino cue artists Nina Angeles and Iris Ranola scored stunning reversals yesterday to reach the 9-ball individual singles semifinals of the Philippines-Singapore Women's Cue Challenge at Robinsons Place Manila.

An 18-year-old, 5-foot-4 bet from Antipolo City, Angeles ousted top RP women's player Rubilen Amit, 5-3, while Ranola, a 22-year-old newcomer from Zamboanga City, blanked Sheila dela Cruz; 5-0, in the quarterfinals.

Singapore's Ong Chew Hoon and Amy Hoe beat separate Filipino rivals to also enter the semis of the tourney presented by New Pagcor and the Philippine Sports Commission in cooperation with Brunswick Ivan Simonis, Aramith, Le Soleil de Boracay, Trapik.com, Hoopwear, Robinsons Place Manila and Viva Vintage Sports and supported by Coca-Cola, Poolhouse Bar & Billiards, Starsvenue (the ultimate place for bar and billiards), Manila Midtown, Grilla Bar & Billiards and Express Card Business Station and Internet.

Ong clobbered Say, 5-3, while Lee Van Corteza beat fellow national player Antonio Lining, 7-2, in an exhibition match.

Ranola was playing Ong, rated No. 127 among women's players in the world, while Angeles was in action against Hoe at presstime yesterday.

For a while, it looked as if Boyet Asonto's wards would dominate the singles competition when they swept the four elimination matches.

Angeles toppled Josephine Ho, 5-1, Magda Say tripped Jef Tan, 5-3, Ranola outplayed Charlene Chai 5-2 and Johanna Dee ripped Daphne Ngo, 5-1, to advance to the quarterfinals.

# Venus makes it 4 in a row

NEW HAVEN, Connecticut—Venus Williams beat countrywoman Lindsay Davenport, 7-5, 6-0, to win her fourth-straight Pilot Pen title Saturday, building a 13-match win streak going into the U.S. Open.

Williams, the two-time defending U.S. Open champion, has dominated the New Haven hardcourts since her first appearance here in 1999. She's beaten Davenport three times in the past four years for the Pilot Pen title.

"Technically I feel pretty sound," Williams said. "I know in the big matches in the Open, the best players have to be able to come through technically.

"When my techniques start to break, then that's when I start to lose it."

Davenport, playing in her fourth tournament since returning last month from knee surgery, started out crisply. She broke the top-seeded Williams in the first game with strong returns and passing shots.

Up a break in the first set and leading 5-3, Davenport began to unravel with several unforced errors and went winless the rest of the way, losing 10 straight games. Williams toughened and began reaching the shots that eluded her earlier in the match. *AP*

# Agassi among Open contenders

NEW YORK—Andre Agassi was trading practice shots with Yevgeny Kafelnikov in 32-degree C (90-degree F) heat under a midday sun.

Along the edges of the court and in parts of the stands at Arthur Ashe Stadium, workers were hammering and drilling, putting up signs and setting up electronic equipment.

Agassi's game long ago ceased being that sort of work-in-progress.

"I'm just trying to get better as an all-around athlete at this point," he says. "At 32, I'm not going to make real changes, although you're always tweaking."

When the U.S. Open starts Monday (Tuesday in Manila), the sixth-seeded Agassi will be among a group of contenders aiming to take the title from defending champion Lleyton Hewitt of Australia.

In women's tennis, discussion of challengers for the year's last Grand Slam title pretty much begins with one name: Williams. *AP*

# Submission of Bates derby entries today

TODAY (Aug. 26) is the submission of official entries to the annual Richard L. Bates 7-Stag National Derby at the Mandaluyong Coliseum. Submission time is from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Participants may contact 531-4003, 531-4005, 534-4110 and 535-2341 for other details.

The 3-stag elimination round starts at 4 p.m. tomorrow (Aug. 27), while the finals (4-stag) is on Thursday (Aug. 29).

Derby sponsors are Pagcor, Ninja Gamefowl Feeds and Lakpue Drug. Inc.

Bates will be at the Mandaluyong Coliseum today to accommodate last-minute participants for simultaneous screening, wingbanding and weigh-in.

Meanwhile, hotelier-sportsman Biboy Enriquez, chair of the UCAP stag screening committee, announced that NCA-banded stags will be accepted in the forthcoming UCAP stagfests.

Next week, partners Muroy Dolorico and Ramon Mansenares will host the Ratratan 7-Stag Derby (Sept. 3 and 5). For appointment on farm-to-farm screening, please contact Mansenares at 0916-4960370 and 951-5078 (farm).

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# New sports bill proposed

**CLEAN LIVING**

*Manolo R. Iñigo*

A PROPOSED bill has been submitted recently to the House committee on youth and sports development chaired by Rep. Monico Puentevella to press for the inclusion of Filipino athletes and coaches who have brought glory and honor to the country by winning first, second or third place in annual and biennial World, Asian and other international competitions of similar level and prestige. The proposed bill also reiterates the national policy of not taxing the people's participation in sports.

Although its main objective is to reward achievers in sports just like Republic Act 9064, the similarity ends when it comes to determining the beneficiaries of the landmark law and the amounts to be given to them. First, RA 9064 grants cash incentives and other non-monetary perks to gold, silver and bronze medal winners of quadrennial events such as the Olympics and Asian Games, quadrennial World Championships and the biennial Southeast Asian Games particularly to the winning athletes or teams who have equaled or surpassed the existing game records or the previous placings in non-measurable events.

Then, under RA 9064 gold medal winners are entitled to cash awards in the following amounts: P5 million for the Olympic Games; P2.5M for quadrennial World Championships; P1M for Asian Games; and P100,000 for the SEA Games.

On the other hand, the proposed bill, submitted to the committee by former congressman Jose "Popit" Puyat, grants medal winners in annual and biennial events who are entitled to the following incentives: For World level championships, P2.5 million for first place; P1M for second place; and P500,000 for third place. For Asian level championships which allow the participation of athletes from all Asian countries as well from Australia and New Zealand; and for other international championships of similar level and prestige held in Europe or the Americas, P1M for first place; P500,000 for second place; and P200,000 for third place.

There is also a corresponding award for team events. For competitions with less than five participants per team, the team is entitled to receive the same cash awards for individual winners as herein provided, to be divided equally among the team members actually present during the competition. The cash awards is twice for competitions with five or more participants per team. Coaches are also entitled to cash incentives equivalent to 50 percent of the cash awards for individual winners. The coach, however, must be identified by the winning athlete or, in his absence, the National Sports Association (NSA) concerned.

The proposed bill also emphasized that the Constitution itself declares it to be a policty of the State to "protect and promote the right to health of the people and to instill health consciousness among them" and to "promote physical education and encourage sports programs, including training for international competitions." Thus, the bill, also known as the "Sports Incentives and Benefits Act of 2002," seeks the abolition of tax levies on the use of sports facilities by the public. "These taxes being disincentives and barriers to the Filipino people's participation in sports must not be levied," the proposal stressed. While some tax revenue may be foregone as a result, this will be offset many times over by a deceleration in the rate of increase of the State's annual budget for medical care and law enforcement. "A healthy citizenry would not need as many hospital beds; and the youth who are into sports, would be les likely to become drug-crazed lawbreakers."

# Eduque golf at Aguinaldo

FRIENDS and family of Tito Eduque gather today to honor the late basketball great in the first Tito Eduque Memorial Golf Cup at the Aguinaldo Golf Club.

Eduque, who died last Nov. 28, would have been 75 today, which is also the 25th anniversary of the restaurant chain he helped build, the Triple V Group, of which he was chair until his death last year.

The occasion is also the 16th edition of the annual dual meeting between Media golfers and the Kamayan Golf Club, who will be gunning for the permanent Triple V Cup, now renamed the Tito Eduque Cup.

A total of 80 golfers—40 from each club—will tee off starting at 6:30 a.m.

Last year, INQUIRER Sports Editor Al Mendoza led Media in a balanced scoring that clipped the undermanned Kamayan squad by just three strokes.

## SPORTS ON TV

**Compiled by L. Manguiat**

**TENNIS:** ATP Hamlet Cup Finals at 9 p.m. on Star Sports

US Open 2002, Men's/ Women's First Round at 10:30 p.m. on Star Sports

**GOLF:** PGA Europro Tour 2002 Highlights at 6 p.m. on Star Sports

Senior PGA Tour - SBC Senior Open Highlights at 7 p.m. on Star Sports

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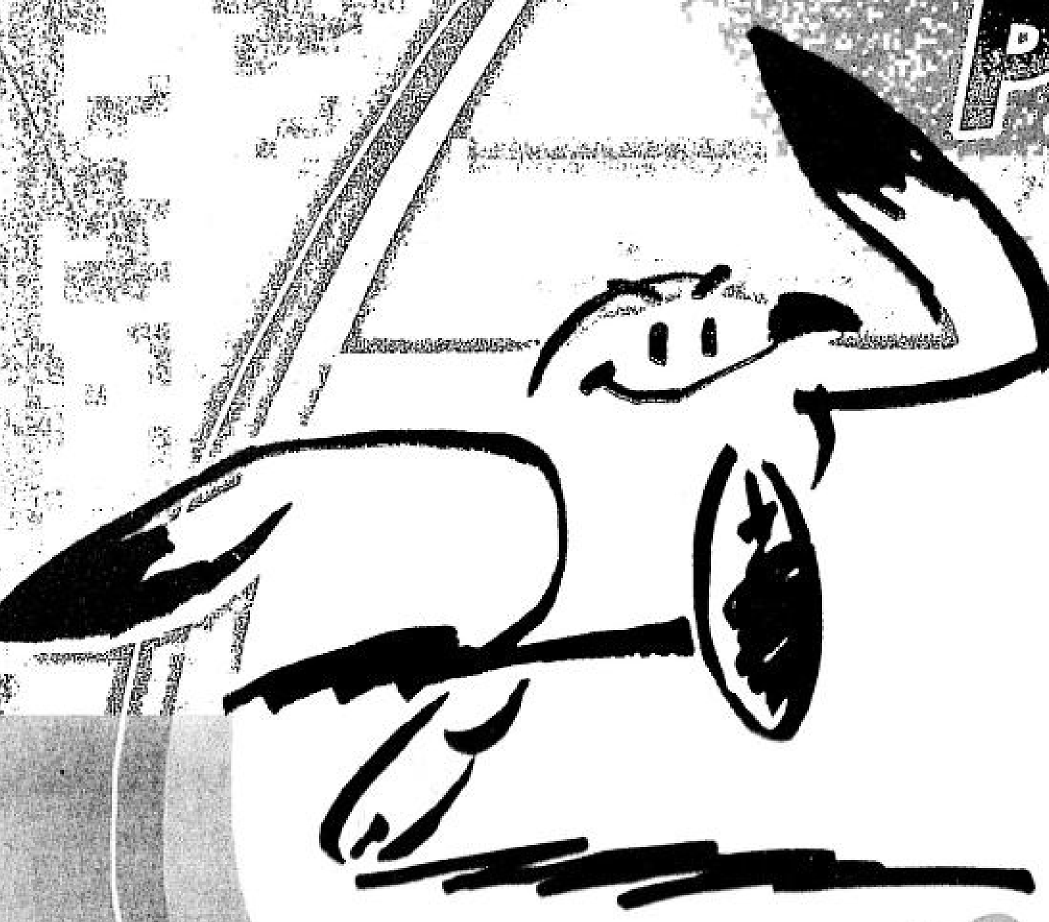

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- Mailed entries received on or before August 30, 2002 by Samsung will also qualify for the raffle draw.
- Raffle draw will be held on September 6, 2002, 5 pm at the Samsung Head Office, Ground Floor, Bonaventure Plaza, Ortigas Ave., Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila in the presence of a DTI representative.
- Winners will be notified by telephone and registered mail. Winners may claim their prize at the Samsung Head Office by presenting any valid ID with photo (passport, driver's license, SSS/GSIS, company ID, etc.) and the Official Receipt or Sales Invoice within 60 days from notification date.
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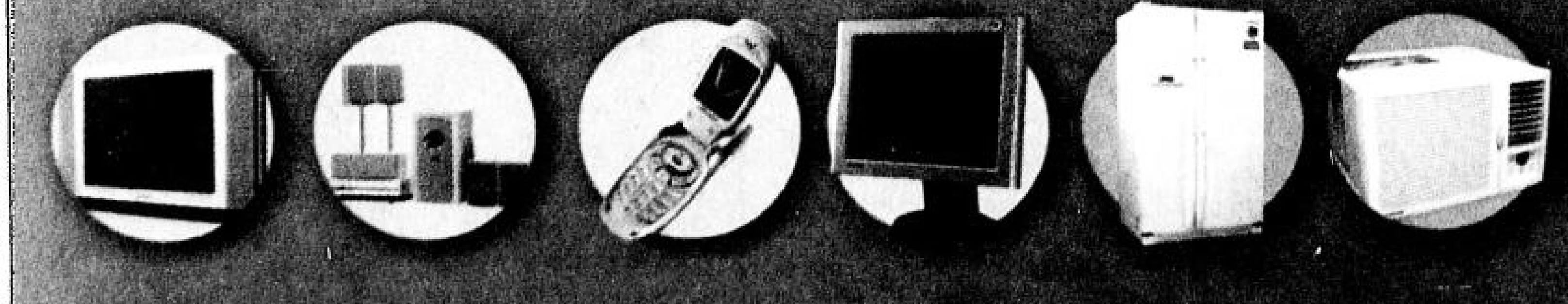

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■ Take Metro trash, Fernando tells Rizal /A24

METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino

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# MMDA: Maximum tolerance for vendors

By Christian V. Esguerra

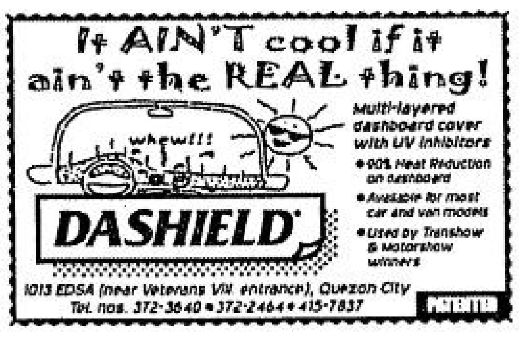
THE METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority yesterday warned that it would respond with force if vendors would carry out their threat to start violence in the face of the agency's efforts to clear sidewalks of all obstructions, including vendors.

"As much as possible, we will implement maximum tolerance," MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando told the INQUIRER. "But they would be crazy to go against MMDA personnel. We have many people and we're backed by police."

Vendors last week made the threat after Fernando ordered MMDA agents to spray kerosene on vendors' merchandise to discourage them from illegally occupying sidewalks.

Aside from keeping vendors off the streets, the strategy would also prevent violence since MMDA personnel would not have to confiscate the vendors' goods, Fernando said yesterday.

MMDA/A24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# Take Metro trash, Fernando tells Rizal

By Christian V. Esguerra

WET day for scavengers at the Payatas dump in Quezon City.

DENNIS SABANGAN

HUMAN waste is polluting the drinking water of Metro Manila, Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando said as he tried to convince Rizal residents to allow Metro Manila's garbage to be dumped in their territory.

"They have to get rid of this 'not-in-our-backyard' mentality," Fernando told the Inquirer. "Don't they know that their human wastes are polluting water in Metro Manila?"

The MMDA is eyeing sites in Rizal for dumpsites for Metro Manila's trash.

According to Fernando, human wastes from households contaminate the Manila Bay through the heavily polluted Pasig River.

The MMDA and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources have had no luck so far in finding a 2,000-hectare land on which to dump Metro Manila's garbage, he said.

Residents of areas outside the metropolis, especially those in Rizal province, have been rejecting the idea of dumpsites, thinking these facilities would only pollute their areas, he said.

"We're not stupid to put up dumpsites without properly maintaining them," he said. "Besides, these dumpsites would give them (residents) extra income."

Fernando said the MMDA is eyeing the reopening of the San Mateo landfill in San Mateo, Rizal to help ease the garbage problem in Metro Manila.

The San Mateo landfill was closed in 2000, but it could still be used for another six years, Fernando said.

But the MMDA would need to convince residents of both Antipolo City and San Mateo, whose local governments are claiming jurisdiction over the property occupied by the landfill.

In nearby Rodriguez (formerly Montalban), Rizal, Mayor Pedro Cuerpo had threatened to close the landfill there, saying that the MMDA had failed to settle its P46-million debt to the municipal government. The Manila City government also reportedly owes Rodriguez P54 million.

The facility's closure would affect garbage collection in Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas, Valenzuela, Manila, Pasay, Parañaque, Taguig, San Juan, Mandaluyong, Pasig and Pateros, according to Cuerpo.

In Quezon province, officials have also objected to a DENR-MMDA proposal to dump Metro Manila's garbage in Pagbilao and Tagkawayn towns.

Rep. Rafael Nantes had said he would immediately call for an investigation of the plan to turn a portion of Pagbilao town into a repository for Metro Manila's garbage.

"They cannot simply turn Pagbilao into a garbage town," Nantes said. "The proponents would surely face stiff resistance from the residents."

He said he would vigorously oppose the project.

"Not in my district, nor in any parts of the province," he said. "We are not the waste basket of Metro Manila."

According to a report posted in the DENR Internet website, Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez and Fernando recently conducted an aerial survey of Quezon province to scout for possible landfill sites.

Alvarez and Fernando have also reportedly surveyed sites in Mauban, Real and Atimonan but found Pagbilao and Tagkawayan most suitable since they are accessible to a railroad and are near Metro Manila.

*With a report from Delfin T. Mallari Jr. PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

# Jawo cannot afford to lose this very crucial ball game

**BARE EYE**

*Recah Trinidad*

IT MUST'VE been the fate of Robert Jaworski to be the take-charge guy. Not only on the basketball court which he had blazed heroic with his intense, muscular style of play and leadership.

Out there at the Senate where he had yet to make a mark, Jaworski recently scored a historic point. He made a fast dash to the other side to promptly break an impasse in the Upper House in favor of the administration.

Last seen, the Big J was delivering a piece of joy to Alex Clarino, his cancer-stricken former player and teammate.

Clarino, looking somewhat fulfilled, passed away three days after the Jaworski visit.

Look, in giving support and solace to Clarino, Jaworski appeared to have beaten the buzzer, as he had often done during his playing days.

***

But Jaworski might have to flex more heroic muscle if he has to succeed in his latest off-court exploit.

This time, the Big J will have to do battle for an entire community in Calaca, Batangas where residents are mercilessly exposed to the killer fumes from two beastly coal-fired power plants.

Nine persons have already died of lung cancer in the said community.

This was reported yesterday by Efren Danao of the Star who said records from the health center in Barangay Baclaran in nearby Balayan showed that at least 19 other residents are suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis.

Danao also provided the names of all the nine cancer fatalities.

Calaca is home to the 300-megawatt Calaca 1 and 2 coal-fired plants of the National Power Corp. (Napocor).

***

Actually, Greenpeace, an environmental activist group, has exposed the hazards posed by the coal-fired plants.

The findings provided by Greenpeace have led Jaworski, with support from Senate Majority Floor Leader Loren Legarda, to press for an investigation of the hazards being posed by the coal-fired plants.

Jaworski, by the way, is the chairman of the Senate committee on environment.

That position is supposed to give Jaworski a big clout.

But the fellow they call the Living Legend of Philippine basketball appears to be waging a losing battle.

In fact, reporter Danao said that Calaca plant manager Henry Alcalde has assured Jaworski that they have a computerized monitoring system that could detect heavy presence of mercury.

But Jaworski refused to bite.

Unfortunately, our poor government, said Danao, lacks the necessary equipment to monitor emissions from the coal-fired plants.

***

Look, with that realization, Jaworski, after refusing to buy the assurances of the plant manager, has called for an independent body to determine whether mercury emissions from the coal-fired plants are of acceptable levels.

Repeat: Our government, which spends billions and billions in the war in Mindanao, cannot spare a sum to help combat an invisible but more sinister enemy in Batangas.

Anyway, maybe that was the best the Big J could do given that stupid situation.

But, after this report on the lung-cancer deaths among residents of the barangay hosting the beastly coal plants, Sen. Jaworski could only be expected to be fired up.

He must work double time. Time is not only running out. It has, in fact, expired for at least nine residents who had been detected to have died of lung cancer.

It's actually a killer monster the Big J is up against this time.

Bobby Jaworski himself knows he cannot afford to miss this basket.

But will he finally get support from those who should actually be doing battle themselves?

Like Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez and Batangas Governor Dodo Mandanas?

Do these guys know a little something about this thing they call teamwork?

# 'Father Reyes deserves Rosanna Roces treatment'

By Agnes E. Donato

THE LAWYER representing Fr. Robert Reyes in a libel case has used in his client's defense a Department of Justice ruling that cleared actress Rosanna Roces of libel charges last May 13.

In a motion he filed before the weekend on behalf of Reyes, lawyer Rolando Sibal had expressed hope that the DOJ would rule similarly on the petition for review of his client's libel case, filed by Rep. Jackie Enrile.

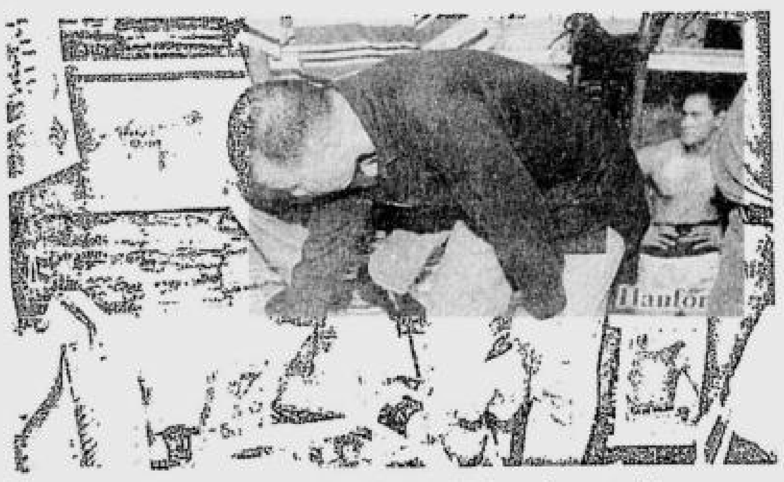
Enrile had charged Reyes with libel after the priest accused the congressman and his father, former Senator Juan Ponce Enrile, of the murder of the priest's nephew. Reyes made the accusation during a television interview.

Businessman Joselito Manlongat had charged Roces with libel after she described him as a "carnapper" in an episode of her television showbiz talk show "Startalk."

Manlongat had been tagged as a suspect in a series of car thefts.

The DOJ had reversed an earlier resolution of a Pasig prosecutor recommending Roces' indictment. It said that the actress' remark was not libelous, explaining it as "nothing more than a simple impression that the general public has of (Manlongat)" as a result of the publicity generated by his alleged involvement in the so-called "Valle Verde Gang."

"In view of the almost parallels in facts and arguments interposed by (Reyes) in his petition for review in the instant case before the DOJ and that of the Roces case which was resolved to be dismissed, (Reyes) is optimistic, and it is probable, that the DOJ will also dismiss the complaint," Sibal said in his motion.


COUNTERFEIT products seized by the NBI are inspected by a member of the Sara Lee Philippines technical staff.

# Fake Hanes products seized

SPECIAL AGENTS of the Intellectual Property Rights Division of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) recently conducted raids in Divisoria and in Baclaran where they confiscated counterfeit Hanes products following complaints filed by Sara Lee Philippines.

The agents raided the Baclaran LRT Cinema and Shopping Mall in Baclaran and the Tutuban Center Mall in Divisoria where they seized more than 800 packs, or a total of about 2,400 fake Hanes products.

Sara Lee Philippines Inc. Branded Apparel is an operating unit of Sara Lee Corp., a global consumer packaged goods company with more than $20 billion in annual revenues. Its leading brands include Hanes, Hanes Her Way, Bali, Just My Size, L'eggs, and Playtex, among others.

Hanes products are distributed exclusively by Sara Philippines Inc.

# Man tries to burn down gas station

A MAN said to be mentally ill tried to burn down a gasoline station in Quezon City early Saturday morning, police said.

The suspect was identified as Lorenzo Soliman, 46, of Bagong Barrio, Caloocan City. He is now detained at the Baler police station, facing charges of attempted arson.

Police investigators said the attempt was made at 2:15 a.m. at the Shell gasoline station at the corner of West Avenue and Baler Street.

Policemen said gasoline boys were napping when Soliman came and filled a small container with gasoline.

When Soliman was about to light the liquid with a lighter, policeman on patrol saw him and immediately arrested him.

At the police station, Soliman said he was upset over the recent increase in the prices of petroleum and LPG products and he decided to do something about it.

*Alcuin Papa*

# Retired cop protecting my attackers —Parsons

By Nelson F. Flores

A RETIRED police superintendent is protecting a gang of thieves who tried to kill actor Sonny Parsons during a robbery in his Marikina City home last month.

According to Parsons (real name, Jose Nabiola) the retired police official controls the gang's operations with the help of at least two active police personnel with the rank of senior police officer.

He said a Philippine National Police official based in Camp Crame had given him the information.

'``In fact he already identified to me the people behind the gang, including the two SPOs, but he requested that their names be withheld for security reasons," Parsons said. "They will be arrested anytime soon."

Government lawyers last week dismissed the criminal charges Joram Gaceta had filed against Parsons.

Gaceta was one of the alleged robbers whom Parsons had shot and wounded during the robbery.

The dismissal of the frustrated homicide and grave threat charges came after Gaceta failed to substantiate his allegations against Parsons before the Marikina City Prosecutors Office last Friday.

Gaceta, who is facing charges of robbery in band, illegal possession of firearms, violation of the commission on Elections gun ban, and attempted homicide, failed to attend last Friday's preliminary investigation and to sign the complaint sheet against Parsons.

Parsons said that, as he had feared earlier, Gaceta is now apparently in hiding after he was released on bail.

Parsons, through his lawyer Rey Bagatsing, asked Marikina City Regional Trial Court judge Geraldine Macaraeg to inhibit herself from hearing Parsons' criminal case against Gaceta.

Parsons said it was Macaraeg who granted Gaceta bail even after he questioned the validity of the initial charges against him.

# *QC barangay chairwomen elect officers*

THE NEWLY organized barangay chairwomen level of the Quezon City Associated Ladies' Foundation Inc. recently elected its officers for 2002-2003.

President-elect Charminia B. Banal of Barangay St. Ignatius said the new officers will be inducted at 8:30 a.m. today at the Quezon City Hall by Mayor Feliciano R. Belmonte Jr.

The foundation is a group of women leaders in public service.

The other officers to be inducted are Regina San Miguel of Barangay Mariana, vice president; Humiliada Advincula, UP Campus, secretary; Eunice Bucsit, Nayong Kaunlaran, treasurer.

The directors are Patria Chan, San Isidro Labrador; Rosario Dadulo, Payatas; Elenita I. Balajonda, Sta. Monica; Lourdes Milan, Bayanihan; Gloria Rosal, Villa Maria Clara; Loida Ednacor, Teachers Village West; and Vivian Quitiuit, Pinagkaisahan.

The members are Olivia F. Chico, Sta. Teresita; Erlina Mardrilejo, Balingasa; Leonor Briones, Balumbato; Milagros Mira, Camp Aguinaldo; Emily T. Algabre, West Kamias; Delia M. Bongbonga, Escopa III; Evangelina Mangaliman, Escopa II; Lilia R. Serrano, San Martin de Porres; Teresa Jardeo, Bagong Lipunan ng Crame; Josefina Perez Ang, Horseshoe; Marietta Panabi, San Vicente; Fely Ong, Malaya; and Rowena Fernandez, Tatalon.

# MMDA . . .

From page A23

"It's actually greed that drives these vendors to illegally sell on sidewalks," he said. "They refuse to stay inside marketplaces because they want to put their goods closer to buyers and hopefully outsell other vendors."

Fernando said he will inspect several wet and dry markets today to determine what stalls are available and to encourage vendors to transfer there.

He said that so far, the MMDA has found a number of public markets with hundreds of empty spaces but vendors still refuse to occupy them.

The Bonifacio market in Monumento in Caloocan City has 246 unoccupied stalls, he said. The rent on each space is less than P50 per day, he said.

Last Friday, the Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap, warned that "violence will erupt."

AVILA

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YOU DON'T have to donate a kidney to help save Mario Avila's life. But you can help buy him an organ so that he can undergo a kidney transplant.

Avila, 34, was diagnosed at the National Kidney and Transplant Institute on East Avenue in Quezon City with an "end-stage renal disease secondary to chronic glomerulonephritis," and he needs a kidney transplant.

The kidney institute said that for the kidney donor alone, Avila and his wife Ma. Jesusa would need P100,000.

Avila was confined in the kidney institute Sept. 24 to 27, 2001. Since then he has been taking four kinds of medicines.

Now, he said, he is running out of money to continue buying medicines.

Avila lives in Sta. Cruz, Virac, Catanduanes.

Santiago R. Alcantara

# A time for children, a time for service

By Agnes E. Donato

SHE SINGLE-HANDEDLY raised her five children and she still had time to care for other people.

Today, with her children all grown up, Erlinda Ganias-Sapiandante, continues to serve as leader of various cooperatives and people's organizations in Quezon City.

Last Wednesday, Ganias was named Quezon City's most outstanding mother in an awarding ceremony at the University of the Philippines-Diliman campus. She bested 55 other women.

She said that aside from the Gawad Ulirang Ina ng Lungsod Quezon award, she already has what she wished for: loving children and a house of her own.

Quezon City Vice Mayor Herbert Bautista, whose office sponsored the award, said the search for excellent mothers "is meant to give due recognition to deserving Quezon City mothers who have shown exceptional commitment and exemplary skills in the performance of their responsibilities.

## Bus to Manila

A rebellious girl, Ganias left her family in Nueva Ecija in 1971 to try her luck in the city.

"I come from a big family," she said in Filipino. "I have 10 siblings and there was no way our parents could send all of us to school. My elder sister got married at an early age and, being the next oldest daughter, I had to take on household responsibilities that my mother could not do when she was pregnant, which was quite often.

TUNAY NA LIDER
"KA LINDA"

SINGLE MOM. Quezon City Mother of the Year Linda Ganias-Sapiandante.

"When I turned 17, it was already clear to me that nothing good could happen in my life if I stayed in the province," she added. "So one day, I asked my mother for money to buy shoes, then I took a bus to Manila."

On the bus, Ganias struck a conversation with a woman who told Ganias that she could stay with her family. The woman would later be her mother-in-law.

But three months after, Ganias saw her own photograph in a newspaper. Below it was the word "missing."

"By then, something had already happened between me and my (would-be) husband," she said. "But I decided to go home anyway. He followed me to the province, and we got married."

## Battered wife

At 25, she was already a mother to five children and wife to a "jealous" man who beat her when their arguments became heated.

Ganias said that she considered her eventual separation from her husband more of a blessing than a heartbreaking experience.

She said the children initially stayed with their father, but they all came back to her when their father failed to provide for their needs. She was then making a living selling cooked food and washing other people's laundry.

"After that, we heard from him only once in a while," she said. "I learned that he had another family."

## Making friends

It was after she had separated from her husband that she started to participate in activities in Sitio Mendez in Quezon City's Barangay Baesa, which was then a squatter community.

"When my husband and I were still together, my daily itinerary mainly consisted of home, market, school to bring my kids, and then back home again," she said. "I only found time to get around and meet other people after he left.

"I made friends with older women leaders in our community who taught me how to lead people. It was very hard at first because all I knew was how to help my children with their homework. I would cry every time they asked me to speak before a crowd."

But she apparently managed to overcome her stage fright. She was elected president of the ASAMBA Homeowners Association in 1997.

Under her leadership, the group was able to compel the Quezon City government buy 1.4 hectares of the 6.2-hectare property of the Araneta Institute of Agriculture and award it to the settlers.

## Foreign conferences

Ganias has since held various positions in urban poor groups such as the Kongreso ng Pagkakaisa ng Maralitang Tagalungsod and the Sanlakas chapter in Quezon City's 2nd district. She is also a volunteer for such groups and projects as the Habitat for Humanity and the QC Pusong Makabayan Foundation.

She became a delegate to two conferences in Germany and Scotland, where she represented the urban poor.

Her eldest child is now a customs broker for a private firm. Another son is a graduate of financial accounting. Her two daughters are married while her youngest child is in fourth year at AMA University.

She said her children are very supportive of her group activities. Her youngest son and his classmates recently started a small scholarship fund for five grade school children in Sitio Mendez.

Her children, she added, are planning to have a second story added to their house.

"I may not have much luck in my choice of a husband, but I am definitely lucky with my children," Quezon City's most outstanding mother said.

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'GAMITAN'

# Honest, quirky, Quarky look at sex games

DECENT performances are delivered by Wendell Ramos, Maui Taylor and Jordan Herrera.

**By Oliver M. Pulumbarit**
*Contributor*

LOCAL bold films often have premises of young, conservative *colegialas* who become nymphomaniacs at the drop of a hat and still find true love in their sex spree. That's one of the prototype "plots" of skin flicks. Whatever semblance of logic there is, is ditched from the word get-go, and the scripts are generally horrible ad-libbed cringers.

Lord knows, I've seen a number of really bad ones.

Thankfully, Quark Henares' energetic directorial debut has none of the qualities that make the viewer leave the theater in regret (or in some cases, shame). Of course, the movie has its share of breast exposures and simulated intercourse, but the sex scenes come off as incidental. They take a back seat to a focused story and screenplay (also written by Henares), which doesn't happen very often in local bold vehicles.

### No tired scenes

While it's not truly, utterly original, the plot is given depth by the competent execution. College varsity player Nick (Wendell Ramos) seduces campus virgin Cathy (Maui Taylor) on a bet, and discards her as quickly as he discards toilet paper. An embittered Cathy gradually transforms into a horny tramp with the help of her exhibitionist elder sister Diane (Patricia Javier) and eventually manipulates her death-obsessed artist friend Lui (Jordan Herrera) into doing dirty deeds for her.

Henares makes it believable with the help of decent performances from the cast, as well as his use of natural and vulgarly realistic language and scenarios. No, there aren't any tired scenes here of hookers treating their unsuspecting families to bags of *pancit* because they had rich customers for the day (I'm sure, though, that he can make that cliché look and sound interesting and hilarious).

The gifted 21-year-old director, the son of popular parents Vicky Belo and Atom Henares, proves that he's got the goods to make his mark in the local industry. He cleverly outsmarted the limits given to him by Viva , most notably the use of linear storytelling.

Despite the restrictions of not doing flashbacks, he gets away with devices that don't confuse the viewer at all. He knows the audience has seen everything and doesn't insult their collective intelligence. You'll notice several subtle out-of-sequence elements if you watch it at least twice. Non-linear elements be damned!

### Consistent dialogue

"Gamitan" has smart dialogue that's laugh-out-loud funny in some parts and emotionally piercing in others. You'll be disarmed by the sheer honesty and frankness of some of the lines. Cathy's friend, for instance, has this to say about Lui's art: "*Gumagawa raw siya ng* sculpture *na gawa sa t*e!*"

Yeah, it's very raw and candid, but very real on many levels. And word association—in a Filipino film!—works well, with not a hint of *kabaduyan*.

One of the movie's strengths is the dialogue's consistency. It doesn't border at all on the typical, over-the-top melodramatic statements prevalent in most Pinoy telenovelas and movies.

Many characters sound familiar, especially during conversations between members of the *barkada*. I'm reminded of the innate harshness of school and the way strange and sometimes annoying people think and talk in college.

But most especially, I'm reminded how stupid peer pressure really is, except now I can say that from an older person's perspective.

### Credible, likable

The actors of "Gamitan" show tremendous potential. Harlene Bautista doppelganger Maui Taylor has that spark (yes, talent) that can get her places. It's not hard to see her jumping off the TF bandwagon for wholesome dramatic roles (and most sexy stars use these movies as a route to greener pastures, anyway). Wendell Ramos is credible as the stereotypical mean hunk, and Jordan Herrera doesn't dissapoint as the "*pa*-existentialist" poet either (although it's easy to tell he's not a real painter—the way he holds a paintbrush is a giveaway).

But the most likable by far is Patricia Javier as the slutty sister and role model. As Diane, she's got more range than the regular vacuous vamp. She's got some of the best killer lines, and she's often shown having breakfast, eating symbolically phallic food (a hotdog, a banana, etc.).

### Foreign influence

Jun Pereira's cinematography and Tara Illenberger's work should also be lauded. Their collaboration with Henares give the film its visual texture. The result is an affecting rock music video look that's very visceral. The creative use of jump-cuts in certain scenes show a big David Fincher influence. The zooming camerawork (complete with sound effects) is reminiscent of scenes from the "Parker Lewis" series.

The visuals and photography are mostly very busy, and many techniques are heavily influenced by foreign work. These people, however, aren't afraid of playing with the camera and adding personal touches on the material. Even the static shots are nicely composed.

There's a parody on "Ally Mc Beal" fantasy scenes. When Cathy sees the man of her dreams, some mushy song blares in her head. The "donated" music from the soundtrack are Pinoy artists, their selected tracks placed unobtrusively in the background.

### Receptive audience

Hopefully, this initial effort and Quark Henares' presence in the industry will enable artists like him to break into the mainstream.

"Gamitan" is more a black comedy than a bold flick but is nevertheless effective enough to affect the most repressed, self-styled moralist (hey, justified sex scenes!). I watched this movie on its second day, and the theater was quite packed, the audience a diverse demographic of viewers. They're generally receptive of the movie and its frank, dark humor.

Older directors and writers can learn a lot from this rookie. He was left to his own devices, and made a pretty gritty and solid effort that doesn't waste anyone's time or money.

He had fun doing this, and it shows.

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'BLACK AND WHITE'

# Not just another lounge act

**By Lia Sto. Tomas**
*Contributor*

LOUNGE acts are a dime a dozen. But the Aug. 19 premier night of the musical show "Black & White" at the Rembrant Hotel was no ordinary lounge act.

The whole show was carefully conceptualized, from the artists and their repertoire down to the minutest details of the production design.

There was nothing predictable that night as two rising pop divas performed, Cindy Rosas and Kelly Grace.

The show began with the boyband composed of Ice, Jun and Reejay, collectively known as 4@kelly, who performed the bouncy "This Crazy Little Thing Called Love" and a medley of Westlife hits. Given a break, this new group can give Backstreet Boys wannabes a run for their money.

Kelly Grace, with her dark yet luminous skin and Afro 'do a la-Sporty Spice, is a striking presence on stage. Her cool and cheerful demeanor easily breaks the ice between her and the audience. She manages to get through to the heart with her voice, which would remind you of Billie Holiday and Destiny's Child rolled into one.

Kelly's performance elicits undeniably powerful emotions, most notably when she rendered her version of the Freddie Aguilar classic, "Anak."

On the contrary, fair-skinned Cindy Rosas exudes heat on the stage. She is sexy and brassy, a bewitching eye candy. Her gorgeous curves alone are already a good show. But she can also sing with a powerful voice. She sang "Only Hope" with a girl-woman's charms, and she made the crowd dance with Cher's "Believe." Already a recording artist, she also sang "Sumisigaw," a cut from her album.

Among the surprise guests that night were balladeer Nonoy Zuniga who did a duet with Kelly, and TV actor Juan Rodrigo who sang a love song with Cindy.

Kelly sang "Wonderful World" while the giant screen behind her showed video clips of people around the world suffering pain, famine, and the World Trade Center tragedy in New York. The simple song all of a sudden became complex, striking, and even disturbing.

In the hands of writer-director Roy Iglesias, "Black & White" became more than just another song-and-dance lounge act. Running for two hours, the show did not at all invite the thought of yawning.

"Black & White" was about color. It was about yin and yang. It was about harmony despite diversity.

*(The author, 24, is studying for an MA in History at the University of the Philippines Diliman and graduated with a Communication Arts degree from St. Paul College Manila. She also teaches English at the Malabon City College.)*

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# Balagtas by Generation X

WOULD eighteenth century Filipino poet Francisco Balagtas be impressed if he finds out that his works are being interpreted by Generation X?

A group of GenXers from the Kami Arts Center dared to transform into a musical "Florante at Laura," Balagtas' classic story of love, friendship and betrayal.

The musical, "Ang Awit ni Balagtas," features theatrical and musical performances by Arnold Reyes as Florante, Princess Rivera as Laura, Vincent Gealogo and Irol Trasmonte as Adolfo, Bench Cruz as Al addin, Lorenz Gealogo as Antenor, Mike Loren as Haring Linseo and Joel Saracho as Balagtas.

"Ang Awit ni Balagatas," which ran until Aug. 24 at the UP Film Center in Diliman, is directed by Kami founding chair Frank B. Rivera, with musical compositions by Kami head voice teacher Desi Rivera and musical arrangements by multi-awarded musical director Nonong Buencamino.

The Balagtas musical will also be presented at the St. Louis University in Baguio City on Sept. 14 and at the Cultural Center of the Philippines on Sept. 26 and 27.

For tickets and reservations, call 416-349.

Tickets are also available at all Ticket World outlets.

**CARL Virtudazo (left) and Arnold Reyes alternate as Florante while Princess Rivera plays Laura.**

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RADIO MINDANAO

# *The nationwide network that started in one room with an antenna tied to a coconut tree*

FIFTY years after Henry R. Canoy opened his first station, DXCC, in Cagayan de Oro on Aug. 28, 1952, Radio Mindanao Network officially becomes RMN Networks, composed of more than 50 radio and television stations nationwide, including RMN Radio, 1 FM and E! Philippines.

According to RMN president Eric S. Canoy, founding chair Henry R. Canoy will be honored by family and friends in simple ceremonies to be held in Cagayan de Oro this week.

Henry R. Canoy blazed a trail fraught with much uncertainty. Describing himself as the "dreamer" of the family, Henry became fascinated with the wonders of radio at an early age and was an avid reader of the magazine "Popular Mechanics." He would tinker with anything electrical, but his father wanted his children to take up medicine, law or even enter the priesthood.

Henry went to Manila and took up commerce and law at the University of Santo Tomas. But he could not forget his first love—radio. In-between his studies, he would sneak a peak into the Radio Amateur's Handbook. During his days as a student and later as an accounting instructor in UST, he would roam Quiapo's Raon Street in search of surplus American military communication equipment, used turntables and consoles.

Henry Canoy and his high school friend Robin Cui built the DXCC transmitter in Manila using the handbook as their guide. But the transmitter didn't work; no matter what they did, nothing worked.

### First taste

Henry's friend, radio evangelist Fred Magbanua, introduced him to transmitter and antenna engineers Byrd Brunemier and Dick Rowland who worked at Far East Broadcasting Co. (FEBC). The engineers quickly discovered where Henry's problem lay. The station donated two transformers to Henry.

Canoy and Cui flew back to Cagayan de Oro with their 500-watt transmitter and gave their hometown its first taste of radio, no matter how crude. Now married and with a growing family, Canoy built a second room in his home to house the radio station and an announcer's booth. They played music and read greetings and messages for and from friends and neighbors.

The radio station became so popular that it drew the attention of the Radio Control Office of the Bureau of Commerce, which found out that it was operating without a license. They were eventually granted a 25-year franchise with the help of then Rep. Emmanuel Pelaez and Sen. Justiniano Montano.

### First words

On Aug. 28, 1952, which was Cagayan de Oro's town fiesta, DXCC, with Canoy manning the booth, officially went on air with the words "This is radio station DXCC Cagayan de Oro calling . . ."

Canoy could not afford a tower so he used a wire antenna tied to a coconut tree.

Radio was unaffordable then so Canoy installed a loudspeaker at the town plaza. At the end of the day, people would gather at the plaza to hear the latest news and to be entertained.

From the very beginning, the goal of DXCC was not merely to entertain but also to inform and educate. Communication was vital in a town isolated by a lack of roads, bridges and communication facilities.

DXCC soon became a post office, message center and civil emergency headquarters rolled into one.

### Public service

This following story and similar ones would be oft-repeated in DXCC. A Bukidnon farmer boarded an early morning bus to follow up his land title in Cagayan de Oro. In his haste, he forgot some important papers. Automatically he went to DXCC and, on air, he requested his wife to send the papers to DXCC by the next bus.

Canoy opened new stations in Iligan, Butuan and Davao. He named his company Radio Mindanao Network with the aim of serving the people of Mindanao. But fate had other plans for him.

In the early '60s, he was visited by Don Andres Soriano, patriarch of San Miguel Corp., who asked him to be a part of a powerful tri-media machine that transformed RMN into the only provincial network to expand nationally.

### Industry pillar

RMN soon became a dominant force in the broadcast industry, and from its halls have graduated many of today's top broadcast journalists, including the late Jo Cantada, Jose Mari Velez, Harry Gasser, Joey Lardizabal, news director Tina Monzon-Palma, Frankie Abao, Jr. and Edwin Ranosa; sportscaster Ronnie Nathanielz and TV personality Jay Sonza.

The martial law years caused Andres Soriano to divest himself of his properties, and he had to let go of his tie-up with Canoy. RMN got a new 25-year franchise when Cory Aquino became president in 1986.

When it celebrated its 45th anniversary in 1997, RMN had 45 radio stations, including a UHF station, Channel 31.

On its 50th anniversary, RMN has more than 50 radio and TV stations throughout the country. It has become one of the pillars of the industry, recognized for its pioneering efforts in broadcasting.

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6 CLOSED

**FRC Cinema**
Talaba Bacoor Cavite
1
2

**Berma**
TEL. 879 21 68 / 879 21 6/
1 TRIPLE X
2 GAMITAN

**CitiMall**
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269
1
2

**CINEMA 2000**

**Cinema 2000 Target Mall**
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
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1 GAMITAN
2 SORORITY BOYS
3 (DTS) TRIPLE X

**Cinema 2000 Waltermart**
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 UNFAITHFUL
2 (DTS) GAMITAN
3 (DOLBY) TRIPLE X
4 SWEETEST THING

**Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall**
(Biñan) tel (049) 411 1146
1 SWEETEST THING
2 (DOLBY) TRIPLE X
3 (DTS) LILO & STITCH
4 GAMITAN

**Cinema 2000 Cinemagix**
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 D' URAGONS
2 8 LEGGED FREAKS
3 TRIPLE X
4

**Cinema 2000 MetroTown**
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1 ABOUT A BOY
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3 (DOLBY) TRIPLE X
4 (DTS) 8 LEGGED FREAKS

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1 (SDDS) TRIPLE X
2 RESERVE
3 BIGLANG LIKO
4 (DTS) GAMITAN

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2 GAMITAN
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4 BIGLANG LIKO
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1 GAMITAN
2 TRIPLE X
3 BIGLANG LIKO

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1 BIGLANG LIKO
2 TRIPLE X
3 GAMITAN

**Olivarez Tagaytay**
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1 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

**Morales Cinema**
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736
1
2
3

**Cabuyao**
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808
1 (DTS) BIGLANG LIKO
2 (DTS) RESERVE

**Fourstep**
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385
1 RESERVE

**Emperor**
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 GAMITAN
2 TRIPLE X
3 TRIPLE X

**Fiesta World Mall**
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 LILO & STITCH
2 UNFAITHFUL
3 BIGLANG LIKO
4 TRIPLE X

**Jade Cinema**
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2 GAMITAN
3 (DTS) ABOUT A BOY
4 SORORITY BOYS

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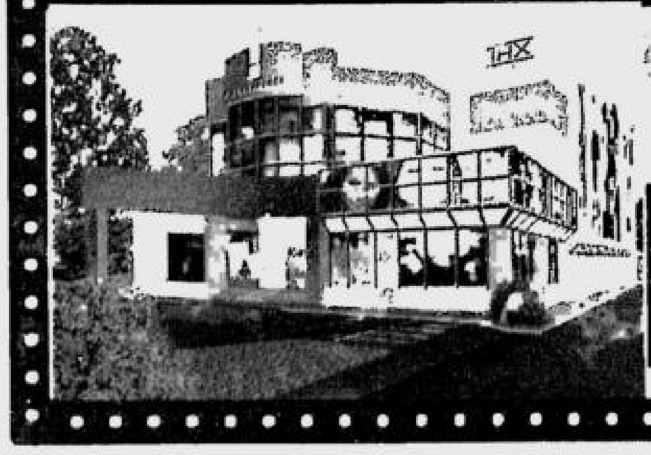

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4173888
1 UNFAITHFUL
2 BIGLANG LIKO
3 TRIPLE X
4 LILO & STITCH
5 INSOMNIA
6 GAMITAN
7 SWEETEST THING
8 MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS

**SM CENTERPOINT**
7149522 -7161416
1 GAMITAN
2 KILLING ME SOFTLY
3 TRIPLE X
4 INSOMNIA
5 TRIPLE X
6 MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
7 LILO & STITCH
8 SWEETEST THING
9 UNFAITHFUL
10 WINDTALKERS

**SM CITY FAIRVIEW**
9350749
1 INSOMNIA
2 HUMAN EATER
3 KILLING ME SOFTLY
4 TRIPLE X
5 LILO & STITCH
6 GAMITAN
7 TRIPLE X
8 UNFAITHFUL
9 WINDTALKERS
10 SWEETEST THING
11 SEX & ZEN
12 GAMITAN

**SM CITY MANILA**
5239240
1 UNFAITHFUL
2 SWEETEST THING
3 MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
4 TRIPLE X
5 INSOMNIA
6 TRIPLE X
7 GAMITAN
8 8 LEGGED FREAKS
9 GAMITAN
10 SEX & ZEN
11 KILLING ME SOFTLY
12 LILO & STITCH

**SM MEGAMALL**
6331901 • 6329401
1 TRIPLE X
2 LILO & STITCH
3 SEX & ZEN
4 TRIPLE X
5 UNFAITHFUL
6 INSOMNIA
7 SWEETEST THING
8 MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
9 GAMITAN
10 TRIPLE X
11 GAMITAN
12 KILLING ME SOFTLY

**SM CITY NORTH EDSA**
9295452
1 LILO & STITCH
2 TRIPLE X
3 GAMITAN
4 UNFAITHFUL
5 INSOMNIA
6 KILLING ME SOFTLY
7 SWEETEST THING
8 TRIPLE X

**SM SOUTHMALL**
8066888
1 WINDTALKERS
2 LILO & STITCH
3 TRIPLE X
4 INSOMNIA
5 KILLING ME SOFTLY
6 MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
7 GAMITAN
8 TRIPLE X
9 UNFAITHFUL
10 SWEETEST THING

**SM CITY CEBU**
2313876
1 UNFAITHFUL
2 TRIPLE X
3 LILO & STITCH
4 GAMITAN
5 BIGLANG LIKO
6 ORANGE COUNTY
7 STUART LITTLE 2
8 HIGH CRIMES

**SM CITY ILOILO**
3209422
1 STUART LITTLE 2
2 CLOSED
3 GAMITAN
4 TRIPLE X
5 ABOUT A BOY
6 LILO & STITCH
7 CLOSED
8 MEGIDDO

**SM CITY PAMPANGA**
7128015
1 TRIPLE X
2 ABOUT A BOY
3 LILO & STITCH
4 SWEETEST THING
5 UNFAITHFUL
6 GAMITAN

**SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT**
8294975
1 GAMITAN
2 UNFAITHFUL
3 TRIPLE X
4 LILO & STITCH

**SM CINEMA TUTUBAN**
2514302
1 TRIPLE X
2 GAMITAN
3 INSOMNIA
4 D' URAGONS

**SM CITY DAVAO**
2976998
1 TRIPLE X
2 KILLING ME SOFTLY
3 LILO & STITCH
4 GAMITAN
5 POWERPUFF GIRLS
6 STUART LITTLE 2

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3
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10:45 LFS/11:00 LMF/1:05 END

**LILO & STITCH**
11:30 MF/1:25/3:20/5:15/7:10/
9:05/11:00 LMF/12:30 END

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5 GAMITAN
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8 LILO & STITCH
9 KILLING ME SOFTLY
10 MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS

**Ermita** 536 -7809- 12
1 TRIPLE X
2 UNFAITHFUL
3 MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
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5 GAMITAN
6 LILO & STITCH
7 INSOMIA

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1 UNFAITHFUL
2 THE SWEETEST THING
3 MORE ANTS.../SEX-ZEN
4 LILO & STITCH
5 TRIPLE X
6 INSOMIA
7 GAMITAN
8 KILLING ME SOFTLY

**Novaliches** 935- 3229 - 30
1 SEX-ZEN/KILLING ME SOFTLY
2 TRIPLE X
3 MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
4 THE SWEETEST THING
5 LILIO & STITCH
6 INSOMIA
7 UNFAITHFUL
8 GAMITAN

**Imus** 471- 8188 / 875- 3838
1 TRIPLE X
2 THE SWEETEST THING
3 MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
4 INSOMIA
5 GAMITAN
6 LILO & STITCH

**Bacolod** 441- 0453 / 0459
1 TRIPLE X
2 KILLING ME SOFTLY
3 LILO & STITCH
4 HIGH CRIMES
5 THE URAGONS
6 ABOUT A BOY

**Iloilo** 336- 8077 - 78
1 TRIPLE X
2 STUART LITTLE
3 KILLING ME SOFTLY
4 ABOUT A BOY
5 LILO & STITCH
6 ANG GALING-GALING/GAMITAN

**Star Mills-** Sn. Fernando, Pamp. 875- 1927
961-5318 / 5270
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3 UNFAITHFUL
4 THE SWEETEST THING
5 TRIPLE X
6

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# Dennis Quaid scores . . .

From page A32

Oscar from the movie he did the year before. I won't tell you what I think of him as a person, though. That I'll leave out."

### Always friends

Quaid also spoke in that interview about what went wrong between him and Ryan: "We tried to be very good parents (to Jack), so Meg would go off and do a film and she'd come home, and I'd do a film, and that's not exactly conducive to building a close and healthy relationship.

"There wasn't a lot of togetherness there. In the process of being good parents, I think we forgot about us as well.

"Meg and I will always be friends," he tells us. "She is the mother of my son." (Quaid does not have kids from his first marriage, to an actress named PJ Soles, which lasted five years.)

On Jack, who is 10 and divides his time between his parents, Quaid declares, "He'll always be my best friend. We have a close relationship. You have a life with your kids. The whole experience has really made us closer because no one wants to go through all that, the divorce and all. It's a shared experience. We went through it together. And he went through it with his mom. It made us closer."

### Green, blue and black

The actor who once portrayed singer Jerry Lee Lewis splits his time between LA and a 500-acre ranch in Montana. Quaid, 48, looks the part of a guy who actually rides horses in the back country, not some dilettante cowboy from Hollywood.

He looks weather-beaten. He doesn't flash that famous rakish grin often. When he does, those blue eyes light up as well.

If she were still around the house, Ryan might not have let him out of the door to meet the press in a hotel with this combination: green vintage bomber jacket, blue shirt and black jeans.

Since the divorce, Quaid has dated actress Andie MacDowell, former Miss USA Shanna Moakler and a Texan single mom named Cynthia Garrett.

Like Crowe and Keanu Reeves, Quaid fronts a band named the Sharks. They were Aladdin Hotel's (Las Vegas) New Year's Eve attraction.

### In the closet

What's next for him?

"I did a film called 'Far from Heaven' with Julianne Moore," replies this younger brother of Randy Quaid. "It's about this perfect family in 1957. Perfect house, perfect wife, perfect everything but they have dark secrets, especially the husband and father (the character he plays).

"He's gay, he's in a closet and he's married," Quaid continues. "I've never seen that portrayed in film. I've seen it a lot of times in real life."

We have seen a rough-cut of the film. With a scene showing Moore catching Quaid in a passionate kiss with a man, the "Far from Heaven" character is as far as possible from the macho baseball player that he plays in "The Rookie."

Quaid won't be accused of making boring role choices, for sure.

"I feel like I'm enjoying acting as much as I did back when I was in college drama class," reveals the actor who made his directorial debut with "Everything That Rises." "It's important to keep experimenting around if that's what makes you happy. Otherwise, quit. What for?"

Quaid may not have become the Big Star but with those words guiding him, he will always be counted on to be the Interesting Actor.

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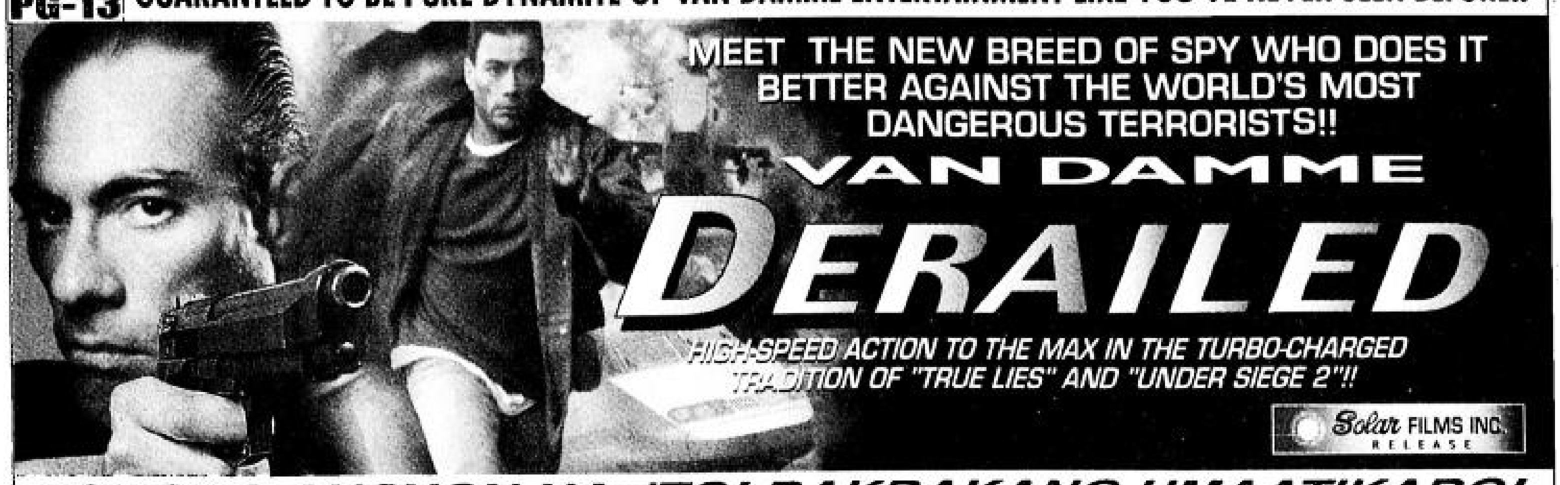
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After tangling with the law too many times, he is forced to pay his debt to society, going on a dangerous underground mission in Prague. Recruited by tough veteran agent (SAMUEL JACKSON) of the National Security Agency, Xander must infiltrate a crime ring led by a brutal ex-Russian Army commander. His secret agent code name: xXx (Triple X).

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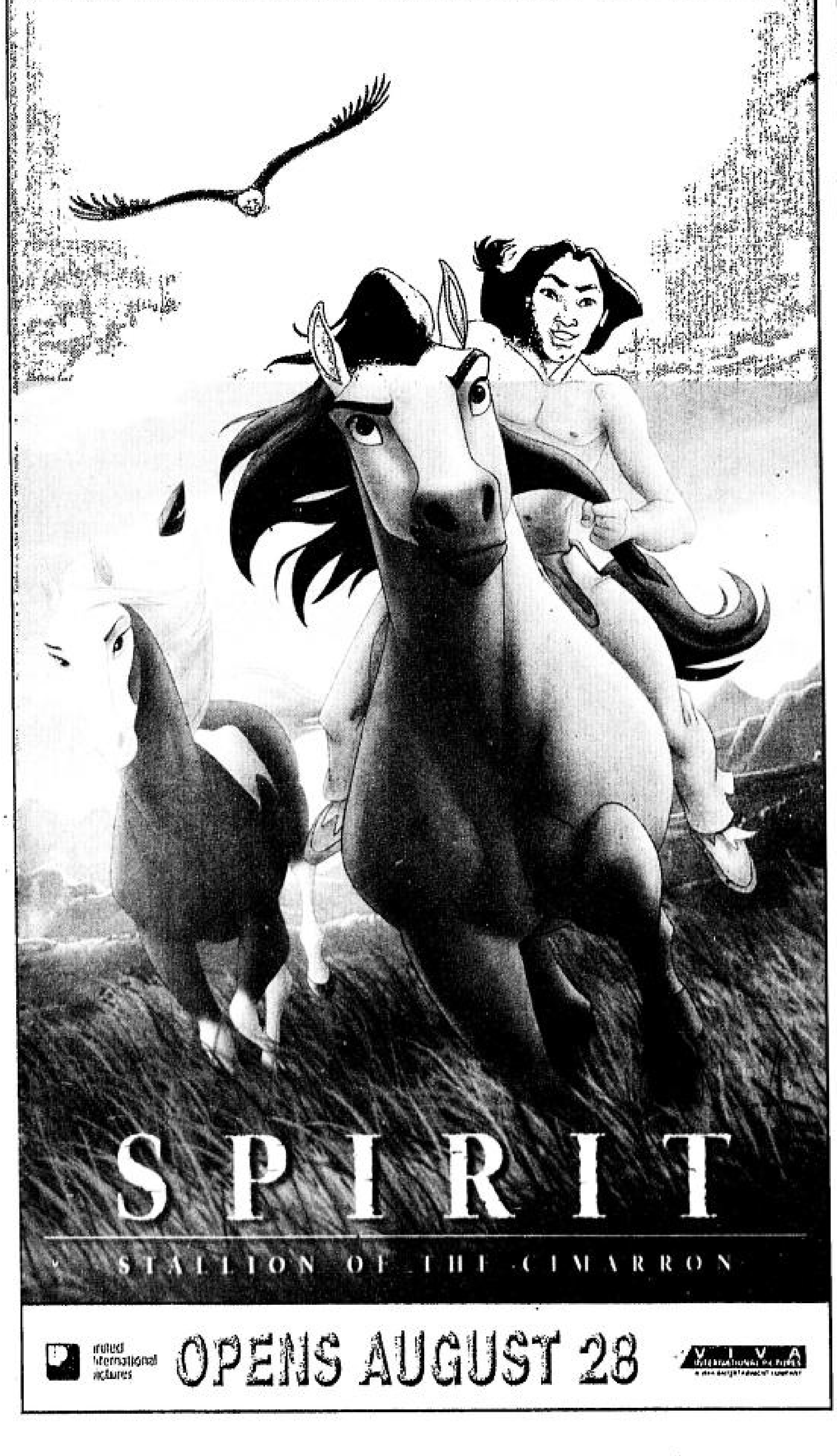
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JACOB

# Chivas Chill turns CEO into music man

CHIVAS Regal again breaks new ground with the new cocktail series, "Chivas Chill."

Unveiled recently with the top honchos of Manila's coolest watering places, Chivas Chill builds on the traditional scotch on the rocks.

As part of Chivas Chill, DJ David Jacob, a Chivas man, is at the helm of the DJ's booth in V on Aug. 31, Shiraz on Sept. 7, Wherelse on Sept. 13 and Aquario on Sept. 21.

Jacob is president and CEO of Marsh Philippines Inc. by day, and smooth, downtempo DJ by night.

Jacob has lived and worked in New York for five years. Music is a passion for him. He has had absolutely no formal training in music, except for fellow DJs who taught him a few tricks.

Chivas Regal is the only scotch that's appropriate for a cocktail drink because of its clean, crisp and rich taste.

DJ David Jacob will be playing down tempo, deep house, progressive house and trance.

# New screenwriters for old

VIEWFINDER

*Nestor U. Torre*

STAR Cinema's new film, "Jologs," has a number of good things going for it: its script won the top prize in the studio's screenwriting contest, it's a "syndrome" story or series of intertwining stories about the country's youth today, and some of its cast members act well. Let's hope that the film fulfills its promise.

In past years, prize-winning scripts have been pretty much put in the freezer, to languish unproduced. Recently, however, producers have been buying and turning them into movies with heartening frequency.

Screenwriting contests are put up to help new writers break into the mainstream film industry, so it's good that their winners are doing just that. The industry has a "clique" mentality that makes it difficult for new talents to go places. What winning in scriptwriting tilts does is to fast-track the process, which would otherwise take years.

Aside from "Jologs," written by **Ned Trespeces**, other prizewinning scripts up for production include:

"Santa-santita," to be shot this year by Unitel Films ("American Adobo"), and directed by **Laurice Guillen**. Writer: **Jerry Gracio**.

"Magnifico Madyikero," to be produced by Violet Films. Writer: **Michiko Yamamoto**.

"Bicol Epress," to be directed by **Maryo delos Reyes**. Writer: **Jun Lana**.

"Nine Mornings," a Star Cinema production directed by **Jose Javier Reyes**. Writer: **Tony Sison**.

In addition, previous contest winners have gone on to write scripts for other projects. For instance, **Gil Portes**' new film, "Mga Munting Tinig," started out as a script written by **Adolf Alix, Jr.**, whose first screenplay, "Ada," won the top prize in the Film Development Foundation of the Philippines' screenwriting tilt, and was produced by Reyna Films as "Minsan, May Dalawang Bata."

It is this "multiplier" effect that makes the output of writing tilts even more helpful and influential on the local film scene.

Best of all, when a young writer breaks into the business and becomes accepted as a good, reliable talent, he sometimes brings in other new talents who would otherwise not have a chance to get in.

The idea here is to encourage truly gifted new writers to contribute what they can to the industry, because many of the established writers have already burned out or have compromised their talent too much.

Only with the infusion of new talent can the industry hope to regenerate itself and come up with films that appeal to the new audience that was created during the '90s.

## Feedback

FROM **Aurora Silayan-Go**: "I could not help being affected to tears as I read your Tough Acts to Follow piece on **Vic (Silayan)**. Thanks to people like you for showing us the God-given talent Vic exhibited. As I've always admitted, we in the family were not that conscious and even supportive of him as he lived his commitment to theater, movie and radio acting.

"I love your analysis of 'a complex combination of knee-jerk evil and tentative kindness' in his performance in 'Ligaw na Bulaklak.' That, even though he did commercial work to put food on the table, he worked with 'believability, solidity, texture and a sense of zest that made him stand out.'

"I remember him saying that he was like an unplanned farmer: When it rained, he survived; with no rain, no harvest.

"Thank you Nestor. I know you are busy, but will tell **Chat** I want to sit with you for this year's Vic Silayan acting award deliberations."

## Imee and Aiko on 'Millionaire' show

REP. **Imee Marcos** won P200,000 for her favorite charity after competing on the "Empowered Women" episode of "Who Wants to Be A Millionaire" last Aug. 24. For her part, Quezon City councilor **Aiko Melendez** won P100,000.

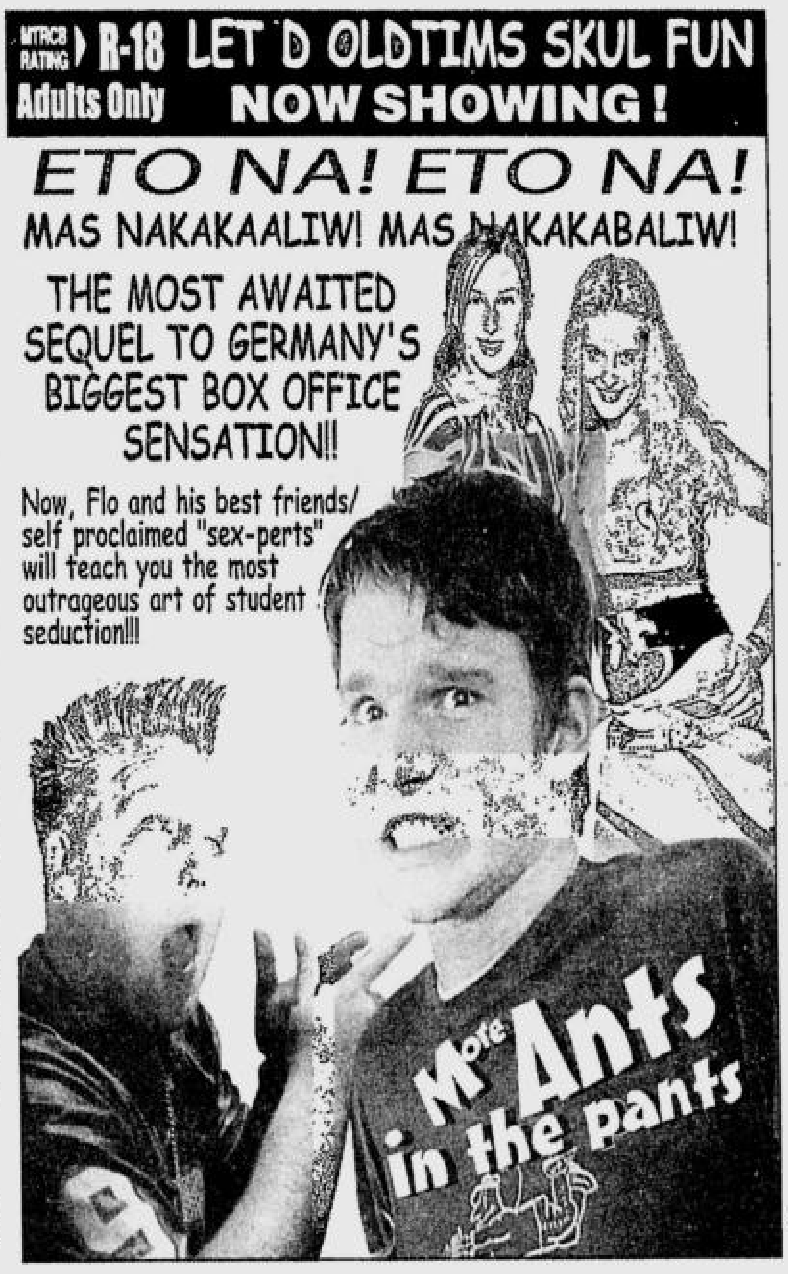
"Millionaire" airs at 7 p.m. Saturdays and 8 p.m. Sundays on IBC-13. Homeviewers can win P50,000 by playing the mini-millionaire game on their mobile phones through number 2967.

## Jude Law plays antihero

IN "Road to Perdition," Jude Law plays Maguire, a press photographer who moonlights as a hit man. Director **Sam Mendes** was pleased with Law's "dark" characterization, and describes his character as "a silent, gentle assassin, a man of the shadows and all the more frightening for it."

Also playing a hitman in the film is **Tom Hanks**. He's an ideal husband and father, but unknown to his children, he's known in the underworld as the Angel of Death.

Law and Hanks agree that playing killers is both challenging and liberating, after portraying so many true-blue characters in many of their past films.



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| INSOMNIA<br>R13<br>12:30,2:55,5:20,<br>7:45,10:10 | Sweetest Thing<br>R18<br>12:30,2:20,4:10,<br>6:00,7:50,9:40 | TRIPLE X<br>P13<br>11:50,2:30,5:10,<br>7:50,10:30 |

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P 13
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- Leo Bukas, Taliba
*"Quark knows the film medium well..."*
-Mario Bautista, Manila Bulletin
*"Maui Taylor: Small but delectable."*
-Eric Ramos, FHM
*"Maui expresses a wide range of emotions from reasonable innocence to crazy wickedness."*
-Edgar O. Cruz, The Daily Tribune
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| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS) | UNFAITHFUL |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS) | TRIPLE X |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS) | SWEETEST THING |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY) | INSOMNIA |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY) | SEZ & ZEN |
| FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY) | GAMITAN |
| FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY) | TRIPLE X |
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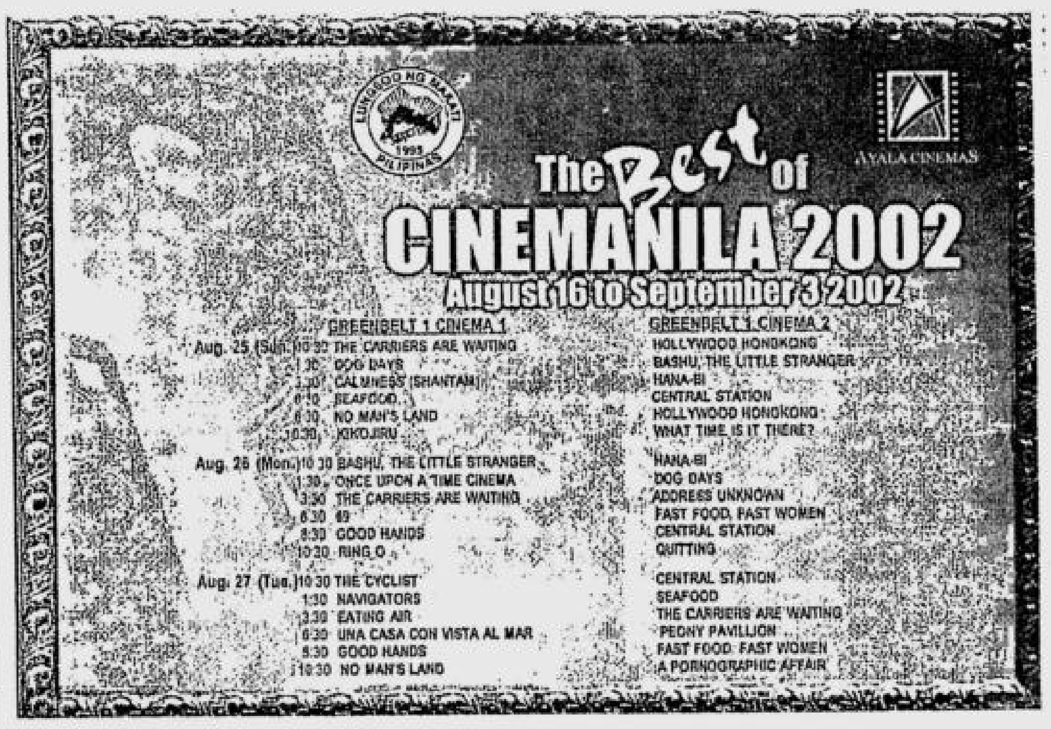
| EASTERN | |
| MAXIM | CLOSED |
| MIRAMAR | BIYAK NA GUBAT / WILD SIDE |
| ODEON | TRIPLE XL |
| ODEON-2 | TIME MACHINE / TAMPISAW |
| ROBEN | GAMITAN |
| TANDEM-1 | SUGAT |
| TANDEM-2 | KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO |
| TIMES | SUM OF ALL FEARS / 7 DAYS TO LIVE |
| **QUEZON CITY** | |
| ACT-1 | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| ACT-2 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| ACT-3 | ORIGINAL SIN |
| ACT-4 | HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY |
| CORONET-2 | HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY |
| QUEZON-1 | SEXZ & ZEN THE UNTOLD STORY |
| REMAR | GAMITAN |
| REMAR-2 | BIGLANG LIKO |
| **NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA** | |
| A | GAMITAN |
| B | |
| C | |
| **MANDALUYONG CITY** | |
| SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL | 635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70 |
| CINEMA-1 | LILO & STITCH |
| CINEMA-2 | TRIPLE X |
| **CAINTA RIZAL** | |
| STA. LUCIA EAST | (681-5401 TO 19) |
| CINEMA-1 | BIGLANG LIKO |
| CINEMA-2 | KILLINE ME SOFTLY |
| CINEMA-3 | SWEETEST THING |
| CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | 8 LEGGED FREAKS |
| CINEMA-5 (DTS) | HUMAN EATER |
| CINEMA-6 | UNFAITHFUL |
| CINEMA-7 | D' URAGONS |
| CINEMA-8 | SEX & ZEN UNTOLD STORY |
| CINEMA-9 (DTS) | TRIPLE X |
| CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | TRIPLE X |
| CINEMA-11 (SDDS) | INSOMNIA |
| CINEMA-12 | MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS |
| CINEMA-14 | LILO & STITCH |
| CINEMA-15 | GAMITAN |
| **LORES** | |
| CINEMA-2 | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| CINEMA-3 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| **POWER PLANT CINEMA** | |
| CINEMA-1 | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| CINEMA-2 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| CINEMA-3 | MEN IN BLACK II |
| CINEMA-4 | SELDA |
| CINEMA-5 | MEN IN BLACK II |
| CINEMA-6 | SELDA |
| **UNIWIDE METROMALL** | |
| (LAS PIÑAS) | |
| CINEMA-1 | |
| CINEMA-2 | |
| CINEMA-4 | |
| **UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL** | |
| (PARAÑAQUE) | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| CINEMA-1 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| CINEMA-2 | MEN IN BLACK II |
| CINEMA-4 | SELDA |



LUNGSOD NG MAKATI PILIPINAS
AYALA CINEMAS
The Best of CINEMANILA 2002
August 16 to September 3 2002

| | GREENBELT 1 CINEMA 1 | GREENBELT 1 CINEMA 2 |
|---|---|---|
| Aug. 25 (Sun.) 10:30 | THE CARRIERS ARE WAITING | HOLLYWOOD HONGKONG |
| 1:30 | DOG DAYS | BASHU, THE LITTLE STRANGER |
| 3:30 | CALMNESS (SHANTAM) | HANA-BI |
| 6:10 | SEAFOOD | CENTRAL STATION |
| 8:30 | NO MAN'S LAND | HOLLYWOOD HONGKONG |
| 10:30 | KIKOJIRU | WHAT TIME IS IT THERE? |
| Aug. 26 (Mon.) 10:30 | BASHU, THE LITTLE STRANGER | HANA-BI |
| 1:30 | ONCE UPON A TIME CINEMA | DOG DAYS |
| 3:30 | THE CARRIERS ARE WAITING | ADDRESS UNKNOWN |
| 6:30 | 69 | FAST FOOD, FAST WOMEN |
| 8:30 | GOOD HANDS | CENTRAL STATION |
| 10:30 | RING O | QUITTING |
| Aug. 27 (Tue.) 10:30 | THE CYCLIST | CENTRAL STATION |
| 1:30 | NAVIGATORS | SEAFOOD |
| 3:30 | EATING AIR | THE CARRIERS ARE WAITING |
| 6:30 | UNA CASA CON VISTA AL MAR | PEONY PAVILLION |
| 8:30 | GOOD HANDS | FAST FOOD FAST WOMEN |
| 10:30 | NO MAN'S LAND | A PORNOGRAPHIC AFFAIR |

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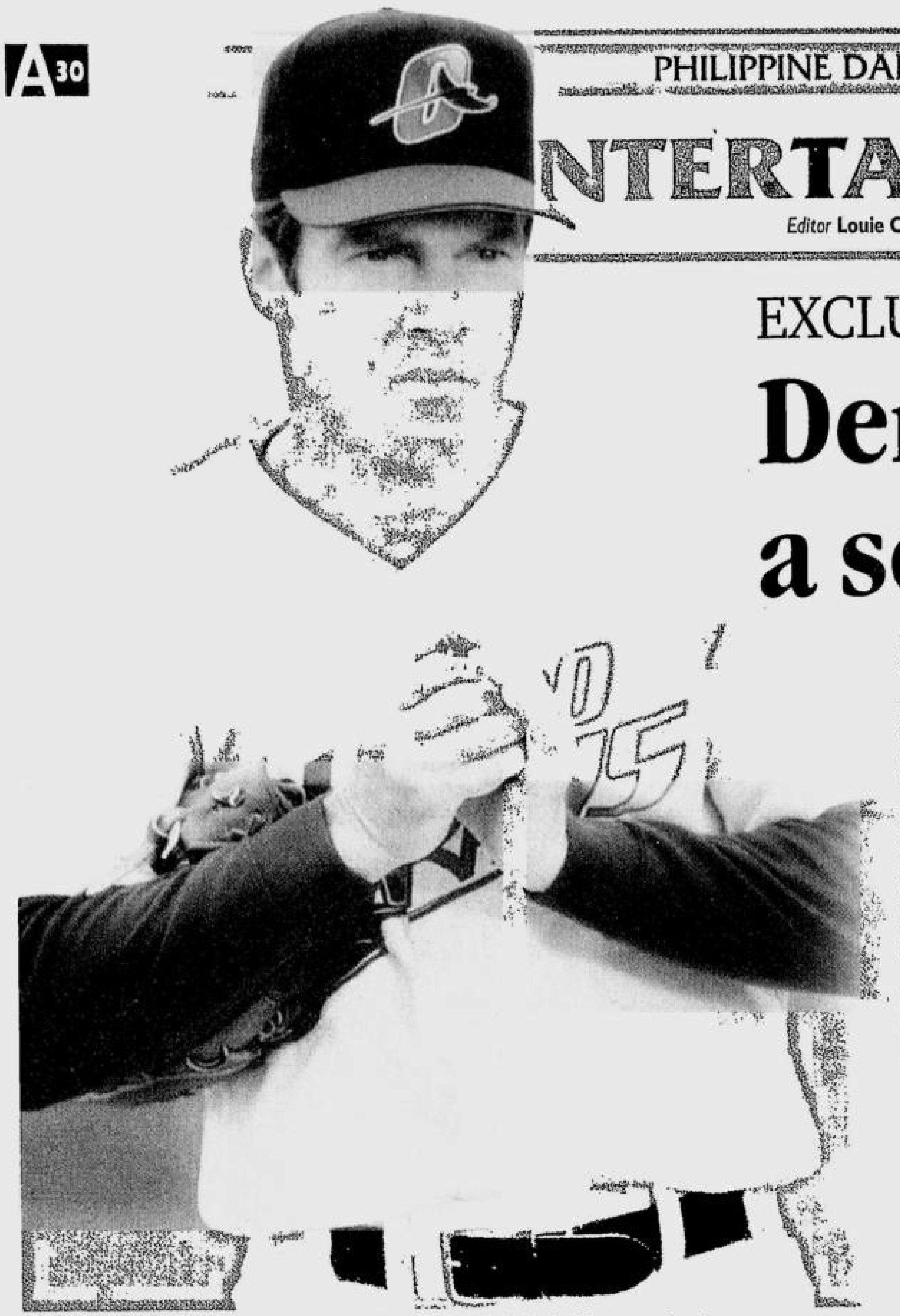
NTERTAINMENT
Editor Louie C. Camino



THE GRIN is rarely flashed now by Quaid. When he does flash it, the blue eyes also glow.

## EXCLUSIVE TO INQUIRER

# Dennis Quaid scores a second chance

**By Ruben V. Nepales**
*Contributor*

**REVIEW**

LOS ANGELES—"I'm for them!" actor Dennis Quaid says with a laugh when asked about second chances.

He is on the rebound in both his life and his career. He has recovered from a very public split with Meg Ryan. His latest movie, "The Rookie," which is about second chances, is a surprise hit in the US.

"A second chance is something that everybody encounters in his life whether he recognizes it or not," the actor elaborates on his response to this reporter's question one recent afternoon in LA.

"The Rookie" is about one of the most remarkable second chances in real life. It tells the uplifting true story of Jim Morris, a high school science teacher and baseball coach who challenged his bottom-ranked team to become the division champion.

Morris' high school players dared him in return: If they become champs, he would have to try out for a major-league team. The team did win and Morris, who had quit pro baseball after an injury, tried out. He stunned everyone by pitching astonishing 98 miles-per-hour fastballs.

As a result, the Tampa Bay Devil Rays signed him up. At 35, Morris became one of the oldest rookies ever in US baseball history.

"We all set out with dreams," Quaid continues. "We stray along the way from the original dream. Maybe that dream will reappear in your life, and to be open to going for that second chance is what Jim did.

'That relates to my art. This film right here is like a second chance for me in a way. My career goes up and down. I've been doing this for 27 years and I've had several second chances."

> 'That relates to my art. This film right here is like a second chance for me in a way. My career goes up and down. I've been doing this for 27 years and I've had several second chances'

### Ex-Next Big Star

Quaid adds, "You make your own life. You just have to be patient about it. This movie is about second chances in your dreams, in yourself and in relationships in your life, people you're close to. 'That's why the movie transcends baseball. You don't have to be a baseball fan to love this movie."

(In line with its follow-your-dream theme, the film also invokes St. Rita, a popular patron saint of impossible causes in the Philippines.)

Quaid has had third or fourth chances. In the 1980s, he was the Next Big Male Star after his critically acclaimed supporting roles in "Breaking Away" and "The Right Stuff" were followed by star turns in "The Big Easy" and "Innerspace." But with fame came his cocaine and booze addiction.

He once told Entertainment Weekly of that period: "Around the time of (1987's) 'The Big Easy' and (1989's) 'Great Balls of Fire!' there was all this heat and attention around me. I expected it to get bigger, but I went into rehab and took two years off, and the scripts didn't come.

"I got taught humility. And that's a hard lesson to learn in life. And I will say that being with Meg and things happening so well for her at that time, it made the lesson for me even harder, the struggle tougher."

### Greatest asset

It seems to be Quaid's turn to have things happening so well for him. He got some of the best reviews of his career in "The Rookie," which was directed by John Lee Hancock (he wrote two films directed by Clint Eastwood, the Kevin Costner starrer "A Perfect World" and the movie adaptation of the bestseller "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil") and written by Mike Rich (who penned the basketball drama "Finding Forrester").

The New York Times' Stephen Holden was the most effusive in his praise of Quaid, who was also acclaimed as a drug lord's lawyer in the Oscar-winning "Traffic." Holden devoted no less than three long paragraphs to Quaid in "The Rookie," starting off with: "The film's greatest asset is Dennis Quaid, who brings a brooding gravity to the archetype of the All-American sports hero not seen since Gary Cooper swallowed his sentences and cast dark, worried glances."

To avoid, in his words, "throwing like an actress" and to spare Morris (the "real guy" he was portraying) from embarrassment, Quaid trained with a pitching coach, watched tapes of Morris in action and consulted Morris himself.

### Cinderella story

The last time Quaid played an athlete, as a quarterback in Oliver Stone's "Any Given Sunday," San Francisco 49ers coach Steve Mariucci teased that at a practice, the actor "couldn't throw a cat out of a window."

In addition to developing convincing pitching skills, Quaid gets to tap what he is best known for—his acting skills.

More than anything, "The Rookie" is an inspiring family drama from Walt Disney Pictures, the studio that made "Remember the Titans."

The emotional Cinderella story of a man who gets a second chance is helped along by Quaid's fine co-stars, Rachel Griffiths (Golden Globe Award winner for HBO's "Six Feet Under") as his wife, Brian Cox ("The Bourne Identity") as his father and Jay Hernandez ("crazy/beautiful") as one of his high school team players.

Playing his 8-year-old son is Angus T. Jones, whom the Los Angeles Times' film critic Kenneth Turan described as "the cutest kid imaginable."

### Beating Meg

Quaid explains how they cast Jones: "We auditioned so many kids for that role. They came in and they were like 'actors.' Angus just came in and flopped down in the chair and was just like being Angus. There didn't seem to be a difference between just hanging out with Angus and filming a scene. He did a lot of stuff that was right, not scripted. He was just being there, being a kid."

"The Rookie's" $16-million opening weekend, a personal best for Quaid, beat the box-office debuts of Meg Ryan's recent films, "Hanging Up," "Kate & Leopold" and "Proof of Life," the movie that ignited the affair between Ryan and Russell Crowe and ended a Hollywood glamour couple's nine-year marriage.

"When 'Proof of Life' went in the tank, I wasn't really sad," Quaid was quoted as saying with a laugh in Premiere magazine. "Hey, he's (Crowe) a really good actor. He probably deserved the

DENNIS /A30

TRANSCENDING baseball, "The Rookie" is also about dreams and relationships, says its star.

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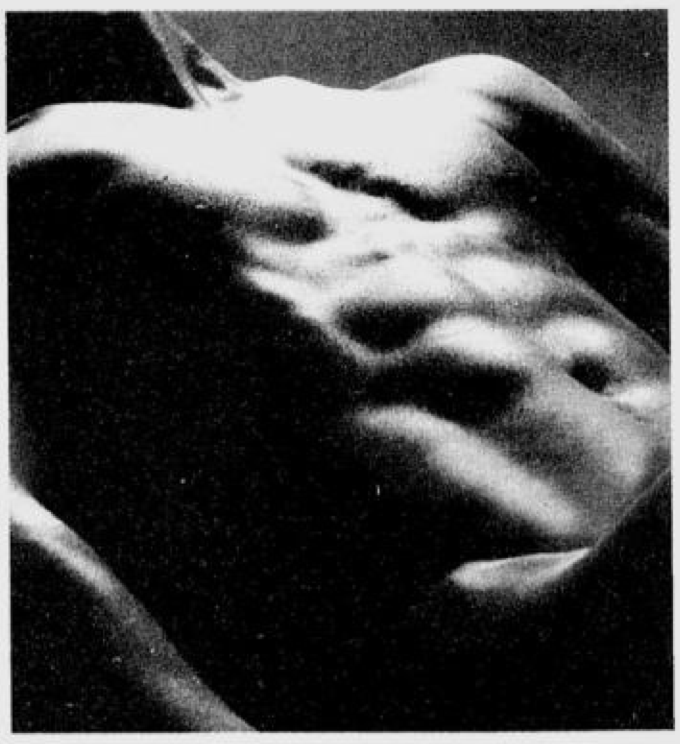

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GRAPHS BY RONNIE CABUANG

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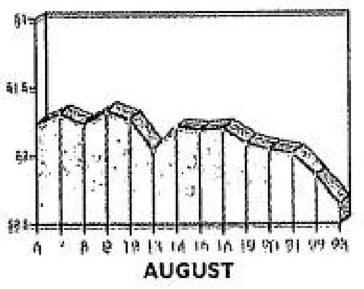


AUGUST

**PESO-DOLLAR RATE**

P 52.365 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Aug. 23, 2002

Y 119.88 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Aug. 23, 2002

**GOLD: $306.10/306.60**
per ounce Hong Kong,
Aug. 23, 2002

### STOCK MARKET

## Sluggish trade seen

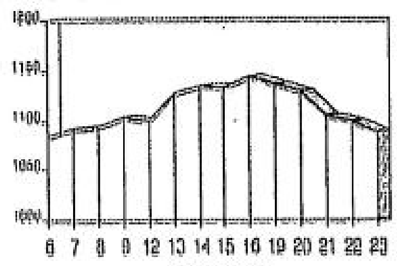
SHARE trading is expected to remain sluggish this week with economic and security concerns still weighing down the market, analysts said Friday.

An analyst warned that the market could fall sharply if the official gross domestic product (GDP) report, to be released soon, would show below-the-target figures. For the second quarter, the government was expecting GDP growth to hit between 3.8 percent and 4 percent.

Lawrence de Leon of KGI Securities said the market was expected to remain preoccupied by the growing budget deficit, the peso fall and the latest kidnapping by Muslim guerrillas in the South, which depressed the market last week.

SLUGGISH/ B6

**PSE COMPOSITE INDEX**



AUGUST

(See stock market report on Page B6)

# Cerberus cuts investment fund for RP by $500M

By Clarissa S. Batino

**INVESTMENT fund and asset management firm Cerberus Ltd. of the United States has slashed by one-third or $500 million the $1.5 billion in funds it earlier earmarked for investment in the Philippines.**

Sources said Cerberus had already informed the Macapagal administration of its decision and its plan to redirect the amount to Thailand.

A government source said Cerberus' move was largely due to its disappointment over the slow progress in the enactment of a law on Special Purpose Asset Vehicles that would provide incentives to asset management firms.

The company's sentiment was expressed in a letter, copies of which were sent to key government officials, the source said.

The Philippine government was saddened by Cerberus' decision but it remained hopeful that the company would still pursue the infusion into the country of the remaining $1 billion in funds that were set aside for investments here.

Cerberus earlier committed to invest in the Philippines $1.5 billion through the take out and sale of billions of pesos worth of bad accounts of banks and other financial institutions, focusing mainly on government housing mortgages.

A SPAV, also known as an asset management company, is a group or company that will buy a company's bad assets and loans at huge discounts for the purpose of turning them around and selling them at better prices. They also take over banks' bad loans for collection.

A ranking government official said he was worried that Cerberus' move would influence other asset management firms to follow suit, considering that Cerberus was one of the largest in this business.

Cerberus Ltd. is said to be the second largest corporate restructuring firm in the United States with $7 billion worth of funds in its portfolio.

The company had forged two separate memoranda of understanding with the Philippine government worth $1.5 billion during the state visit of President Macapagal-Arroyo to the US last year. "At that time, the bill on SPAV was still progressing in Congress," the source said.

The first MOU contains Cerberus' intention to acquire about $1 billion worth of government housing mortgages.

The government, through agencies such as the Pag-Ibig Fund and Home Guaranty Corp., has more than P100 billion worth of mortgages that could be sold to an asset-management company like Cerberus.

The second was an understanding where Cerberus would put up a $500-million Philippine business recovery fund to be used in facilitating the restructuring of distressed local companies.

"They got tired of waiting for the SPAV, so they said they would invest the $500 million in Thailand first. This is going to be a blow to the confidence of other asset management groups waiting for the same legislation," said the government source.

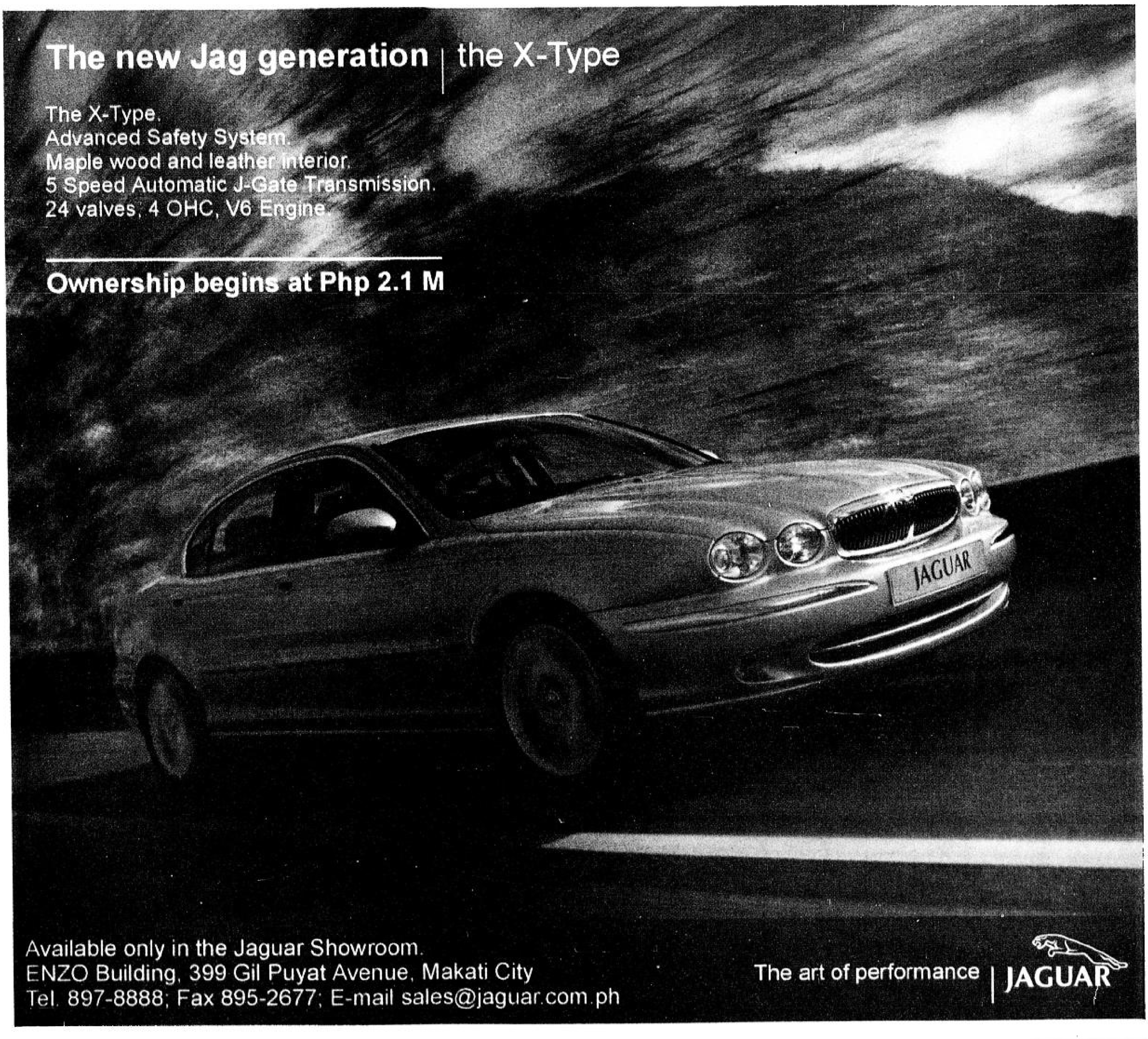
He said that Lehman Brothers had also ditched its agreement with the Metrobank Group for the transfer and sale of the bank's P15 billion worth of non-performing loans to the US firm.

Like Cerberus, US investment bank Lehman Brothers also committed a $1-billion investment in the Philippines through asset management and corporate restructuring.

The agreement between Lehman and the country's largest bank was already reflected in Metrobank's books during the first quarter, which showed a reduction in its non-performing loans during the period.

The central bank, however, acknowledged the transaction only in the second quarter. This brought down the bank's NPL ratio in June to 18.06 percent from 18.4 percent in May.

CERBERUS/ B3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## TAIWANESE INVESTORS' CONCERNS

# RP urged to address labor, security problems

**By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.**

TAIWANESE businessmen are urging the Philippine government to address the country's labor and security problems and rising utility costs if it wants to stem the tide of foreign direct investments flowing into China.

In a speech before members of a Philippine delegation to Taiwan last week, Taiwan's Legislative Yuan Vice President P.K. Chiang said Malacañang should mend domestic concerns such as the rising level of labor activism and work stoppages, increasing crime and threats to personal security of businessmen, interruptions to air transport between the two countries, and shortage of electricity and water supplies.

Chiang noted that despite its proximity to the island republic, the Philippines has been getting only crumbs of Taiwanese investments ($980 million from 1959 to June 2002) compared with those pumped into Asean countries such as Indonesia ($12.8 billion ) and Vietnam ($5.8 billion).

Chiang said aside from domestic problems, the Philippines had to contend with the drastic changes in the international economic environment, specifically the fallout from the Asian financial crisis and China's "magnetic attraction" to foreign direct investments (FDI).

Billionaire Jeffrey Koo, in a speech, said the Mainland's huge domestic market and low production costs have enabled China to supersede Asean as the favorite investment destination in Asia as it sucked up two-thirds of FDI capital flowing into the region.

Koo said Taiwanese investors used to pump in $4 billion annually to Asean before the 1997 financial crisis but this figure had shrunk to $1.4 billion a year in 2001. Taiwanese investments to China have jumped to $36.4 billion since 1994 versus the $11.8 billion that went into Asean.

# Closure of coal-fired plants seen raising Napocor rates

**By Ronnel W. Domingo**

THE NATIONAL Power Corp. said its effective selling rate would increase by 92 centavos per kilowatthour if it would be forced to mothball its coal-fired power plants.

Napocor officer in charge/president Roland Quilala said in a statement that calls for the shutdown of the coal plants ran counter to the government's commitment to keep power rates affordable.

Quilala said gains from efforts to lower electricity rates would be mitigated by such a move.

The Napocor chief said the state firm would have to absorb P3 billion a month or P36 billion a year in foregone revenues should it close down the coal plants.

"Napocor will absorb increases in costs above the 40-centavo-per-kilowatthour ceiling for its purchased power cost adjustment (PPCA)," he said.

Napocor has been in the red since its financial performance dipped in 1998. Its net losses reached a high of P10.3 billion in 2000.

President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered Napocor in May to cut down by an average of 85 centavos per kWh the PPCA it was collecting to cover for electricity bought from independent power producers.

The environmentalist group Greenpeace has been actively calling on the government to shut down the coal plants since last month.

Napocor owns and runs the Calaca plant in Batangas and the Masinloc plant in Zambales—each with a generating capacity of 600 MW—and the 105-MW Naga complex in Cebu.

The power firm also buys power from the IPP-owned and -operated Sual plant in Pangasinan and the Pagbilao plant in Quezon. The plants have contracted generating capacities of 1,200 MW and 700 MW, respectively.

# What's up, doc?

**QUESTIONS OF POLICIES**

*Honesto C. General*

THE MEDICAL doctors are in a tizzy over House Bill No. 4955, ominously titled "An Act Punishing the Malpractice of Any Medical Practitioner," otherwise known as The Malpractice Bill. The Philippine Medical Association has filed 10 reasons why it was strongly opposing the bill.

It looks like the bill should have been written with more thought and study. For example, it classifies malpractice as a bigger crime than, say, treason or sedition. I could not help but feel that the bill was written in a fit of anger.

Not being a lawyer, I will take the word of the PMA, whose legal counsels must have been consulted that the bill breaks the equal protection and double jeopardy clauses of the Constitution. I also agree that the punishment is too harsh.

But I do not buy the line that the bill will force doctors to practice medicine in a defensive manner. In other words, doctors will require patients to take a variety of tests before prescribing medicine and other forms of treatment. A battery of specialists will attend to surgeries.

A true professional will do his job as well as he can and is ready to defend his decisions against anybody. This is the sworn duty of the true medical professional, malpractice bill or none. To hedge against any possible mistakes by sending the patient to a whole panel of tests is unprofessional. This is similar to an insurance broker recommending flood insurance to a client whose house is on a hilltop.

I also disagree with the PMA that a malpractice law will forge doctors to buy insurance and pass on the premium to patients by way of higher fees. The PMA brings up a subject close to my heart.

As the PMA has said, the Revised Penal Code already covers malpractice. So, whether the malpractice bill passes or not, and whether the doctor buys a policy or not, the fact is that he is exposed to the risk of facing a million-peso lawsuit in the practice of his profession. Without insurance, he carries the risk on his own shoulders. With insurance, he passes on the risk to the insurance company by paying an annual premium.

Very few doctors know about malpractice insurance, mainly because this is a new line of business. The insurance is called Physicians, Surgeons and Dentist Professional Liability policy. The insuring clause says, "to pad in behalf of the insured all sums which the insured shall become legally obligated to pay as damages . . . for injury arising out of **malpractice, errors or mistake** in rendering or failure to render professional services in the practice of the insured's profession," (emphasis mine).

The policy does not cover, among others, "injury arising out of the performance of a criminal act or caused by a person under the influence of intoxicants or narcotics." Also, acupuncture is not covered.

For the doctor, there are some valuable side benefits. In case of a claim against him, the insurance company undertakes the defense at no additional cost. Of course, where liability is clear, the company will settle the claim right away.

The premium depends on the line of specialization. The highest premiums are for the anesthesiologist, neurosurgeon, OB-gynecologist, cardiac surgeon, otolaryngologist (with retroactive surgery). The lowest are for the pediatrician, public health officer, pathologist, preventive medicine (no surgery). Additional premium is charged if the policy will also cover assistants and staff.

Since this line is relatively new in the country, the amount of insurance available is quite modest. The maximum is P500,000 per one claim and P1,000,000 in total claims for any one policy year.

It is true the number of lawsuits is still small, but the situation must be changing. As the Filipino people become more aware that they need to protect and fight for their rights more vigorously, the number of cases will rise. It is up to the doctor to decide now whether he should continue to carry the risk of being slapped with a million-peso suit all by himself; or pass the risk on to an insurance company by paying a fixed premium. It's your prescription, doc.

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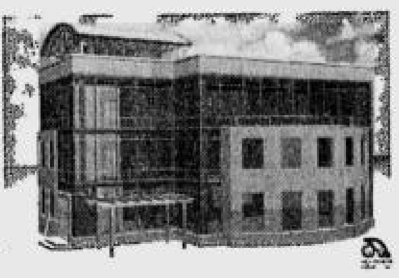

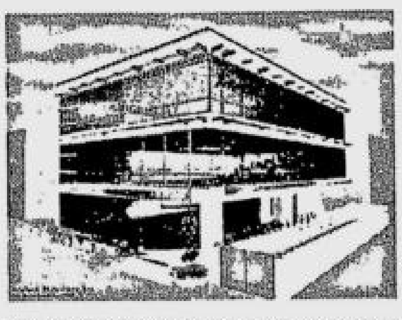

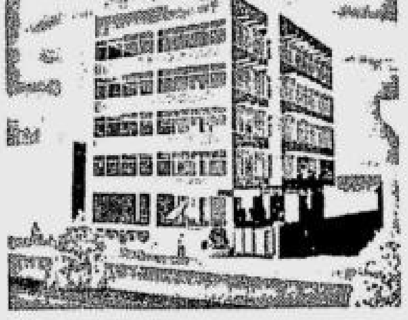

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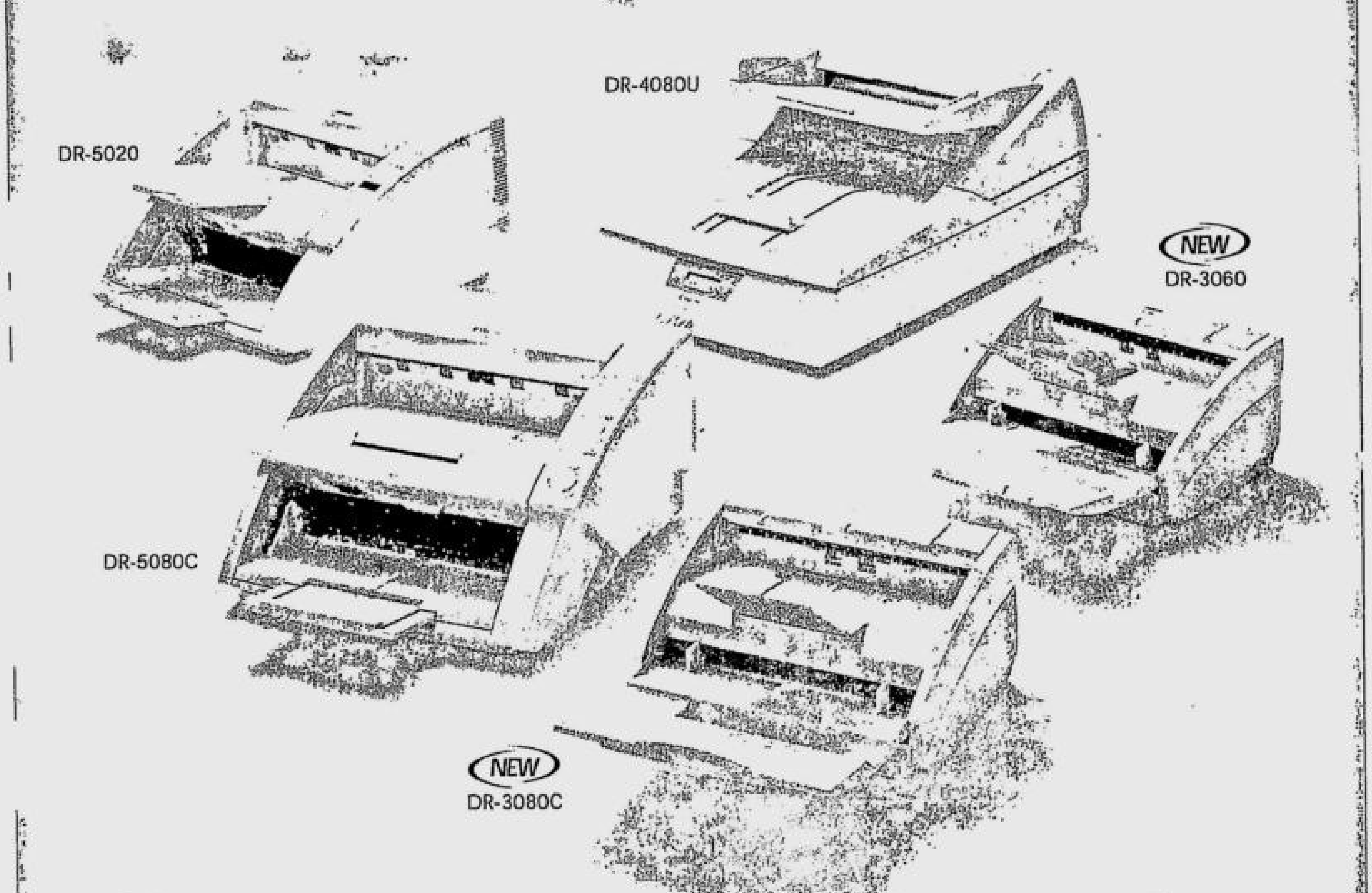

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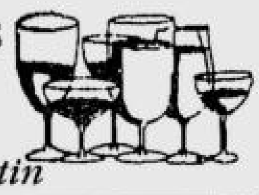
# Stars fell on East Asia



**COCKTALES**

*Victor C. Agustin*

STARS owner Jose Armando Eduque suffered the ignominy of being criminally arraigned last week in Makati over estafa charges in connection with the collapse of East Asia Capital Corp.

Eduque, president of East Asia and said to be the favorite nephew-in-law of Madrigal matriarch Chito Madrigal-Collantes, pleaded not guilty to allegations of double-booking the sale of commercial papers to investor Cruzvale, the movie-chain outfit controlled by the family of Ramon Mojica.

In addition to the Mojica complaint, Eduque and other East Asia officers are also facing another estafa complaint from, ironically, East Asia shareholder/director, Ambassador to the Vatican Francisco Alba.

The twin estafa cases, both being heard by Makati RTC Judge Romeo Barza, mean that the rehabilitation plan for the collapsed investment bank is dead in the water.

Even without the court cases, the prospects of reopening East Asia have been dimmed by the failure of both the shareholders and the creditors to agree on rehab terms.

East Asia's shareholders, principally the Hong Kong-based Bank of East Asia and the Madrigals, want the unsecured creditors, whose claim total about P900 million, to agree to a 45-percent haircut. On the other hand, the creditors, like Mojica, insist that they be given preferred shares in the rehabilitated investment bank so that their claims would be fully covered.

The creditors' demand is a shot-in-the-moon, given that East Asia and Madrigal money even funded Eduque's Stars, the upscale restaurant in Glorietta that had closed amid charges of unpaid chefs and suppliers.

According to the grapevine, Doña Chito is willing to bail out Eduque, who is married to her favorite niece Ma. Susana Madrigal, so long as the bail-out fund is treated as an advance out of the inheritance Susana would receive from the famed Madrigal billions.

In the meantime, the other big-name investors in East Asia, the Tantocos of Rustans, have decided to cut their losses and opted out of the rehabilitation plan.

### Saving Cardinal's skin

OVER at another ill-fated investment bank, the Opus Dei-favored Corporate Investments Philippines Inc., ex-Cipi chair Bernardo Villegas and ex-president Vicente Atilano are now passing off documents showing that Ricardo Cardinal Vidal withdrew P39.5 million from the investment bank in June 2000, when Cipi was on the verge of collapse.

The subliminal message is that the Cebu Cardinal saved his neck first and obtained preferential treatment ahead of the Assumption nuns and the Montessori schools who also have investments in Cipi.

According to the pro-Opus Dei grapevine, Cardinal Vidal eased Atilano out of Cipi in the hope that San Miguel vice chair Ramon Ang, who was critical of Atilano, would step in and pump money to save the investment house.

The San Miguel Retirement Fund and the Archdiocese of Cebu owned 30 and 5 percent, respectively, of Cipi.

Atilano apparently believes that he could still turn around Cipi at that time and that Vidal's withdrawal of his millions, along with Atilano's replacement by a Vidal nominee, only aggravated the situation for the besieged investment bank.

Worse, the hoped-for new funds from San Miguel never came.

### Amigo mix-up

THE WINNING bidder for the P70-million light-and-sound museum in Intramuros was the subject of a protest from a losing bidder, all because of a mix-up ironically coming from the Philippine Tourism Authority itself.

PTA legal counsel Teodoro Hernandez, in at least two official communications, referred to the winning bidder as the "Amigo Club International Inc." when it should have been "Amigo Club Entertainment Inc."

A losing bidder seized on the fact that the first name, as the PTA counsel had erroneously referred to, was not even registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission and, therefore, should not have been awarded the P70-million contract.

The mix-up has been resolved and that the real Amigo, owned by Amando Nieva "Wopsy" Zamora, has been given the green light to build the two-story museum in Intramuros in joint venture with Constant Builders and Development Corp., represented by president Mario Oreta.

### Short cuts

- AFTER taking much pain to erase its Erap-depository bank image, Equitable PCIBank last week elected Erap PMS Secretary Leonora "Dragon Lady" de Jesus as board director.
- IN what could be a first in local legal history, basketball player Rizaldo Realubit has been ordered by Makati RTC Judge Leticia Morales to undergo a DNA examination in connection with a paternity suit.

### Heard through the grapevine

AFTER lying low during the Estrada years, researcher Ricardo Manapat of the "Some Are Smarter Than Others" fame is back in the groove, having been reappointed National Archives director, the same post he held during the Ramos years.

*(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)*

# Single regulatory agency proposed

**By Elena R. Torrijos**

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission is urging legislators to consider adopting a single regulator system for pre-need companies and other financial institutions.

In a paper submitted to the Senate, the SEC said that the problem of deciding which government agency—the SEC or the Insurance Commission—should regulate the pre-need industry could be resolved by having a single agency to regulate and supervise banks, insurance firms and the capital markets. She said the Philippines should take a look at certain European and Asian regulatory models.

"In the United Kingdom, the super powerful Financial Services Authority regulates the banking, securities and insurance businesses. The same model was adopted by the Monetary Authority of Singapore. While the SEC has no objection to the transfer of supervision of the pre-need industry to the IC, the features of our current regulation should be looked into," the SEC said.

The corporate watchdog said legislators should seriously look at the single regulator concept as it would likely "bring about cost effectiveness and uniform regulatory approaches and enforcement."

# Cerberus cuts investment . . .

From page B1

Sources said Metrobank was talking with another group to buy half of its NPLs.

The legislation on SPAV was not moving as fast as the government and the private sector had wanted and anticipated.

The bill on SPAVs seeks the granting of various incentives to asset management firms including exemption from documentary stamp and capital gains taxes and the application of the net operating loss carryover scheme.

Banks are also pushing for a provision that will allow them to own at least 30 percent of a SPAV so that they can have a share of the earnings from the disposal of the assets and collection of the loans.

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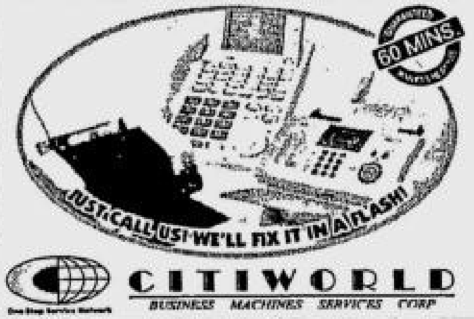

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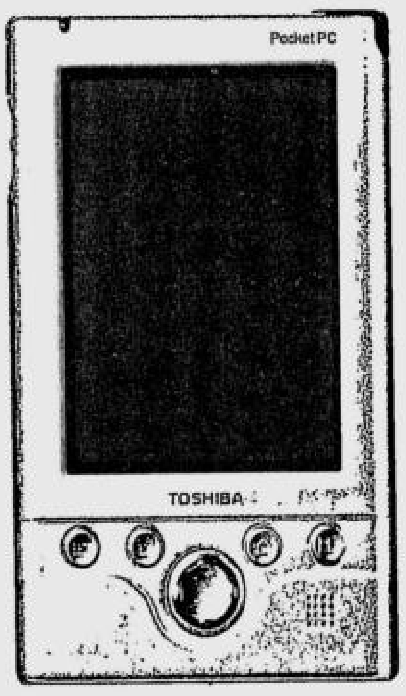

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# SMC seen acquiring stake in Singapore beer company

**By Doris C. Dumlao and Elena R. Torrijos**

LOCAL food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. is preparing to launch another acquisition bid, this time involving Singapore-based Fraser and Neave Ltd. (F&N), a major producer of beer, soft drinks and dairy products in the Asia-Pacific.

The bid is in line with SMC's plan to become a major regional player in the beverage business. It is also SMC's first acquisition bid since the entry of Japan's Kirin Brewery into the company as a strategic partner.

SMC is hoping to strike a deal that will enable it to acquire a significant stake in F&N or buy out some of the Singaporean firm's assets within this year, well placed sources disclosed to the INQUIRER.

If plans push through, the sources said funding for the acquisition would come from SMC's newly beefed up war chest. "Mobilizing a leverage buyout could still be an option," a source said.

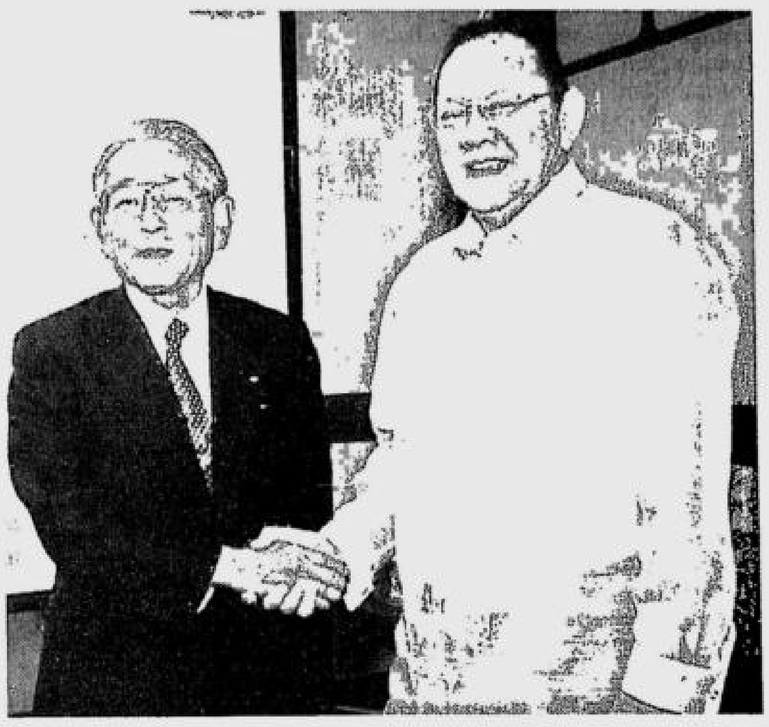
In a separate interview, a source from SMC confirmed that talks over F&N had started as early as two to three years ago, but added that there was no indication yet on the outcome of the discussions.

The source explained that SMC was keen on some of F&N's specific assets but noted that it was usually hard to strike a deal involving just portions of the business.

F&N, which is listed on the Singapore Stock Exchange, is into food and beverage but has recently been divesting some of its assets to invest in new areas such as e-commerce.

With a revenue base of about $1.7 billion as of end-2001, F&N owns about 38 percent of Asia Pacific Breweries and 90 percent of Times Publishing in Singapore. It also has some interests in real estate.

SMC president Ramon Ang earlier said the conglomerate was negotiating to acquire a company with an annual turnover of about $1.5 billion.



**DANDING MEETS KIRIN CHAIR**
**Kirin Brewery Co., Ltd. chair Yasuhiro Sato (left) took time off from his busy schedule to meet with San Miguel Corp. chair Eduardo M. Cojuangco Jr. in Manila recently. The $540-million deal between SMC and Kirin was completed last March.**

ROOF SHINGLES
(Time-out for Questions and Answers)

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A solid question. Here's another: *"Asphalt shingles work well in cold countries like the U.S.A., but will they perform in our typhoon-prone climate?"*

**Answer:** Shingles cover more than 60% of residential roofs in USA. You find them not only in the cold northern regions but also in the Southeast (Florida, Georgia, South Carolina) where hurricanes with strength of 200 kms/hr or more are frequent visitors. They are also number one roofing in the Mississippi Valley, the country of tornadoes.

Another valid question: *"But won't asphalt shingles melt and warp in our hot summer?"*

**Answer:** The USA is a cold country in the north but a very hot desert country in the south (Texas, New Mexico, Arizona) beating our climate with their 38°C to 41°C summer day temperature.

Then, this question: *"But why do we hear so much about shingles' poor perfomance in our weather?"*

**Answer:** Because of the fear of the unknown. Because the workmanship of poorly-trained installers negate the superior value of shingles. Because asphalt shingles are not distinguished from wood shingles which warp and leak. Because giant G.I. roof sheet manufacturers can't bear the idea of losing.

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### BSP SURVEY

# Business projects rosy 4th quarter

**By Clarissa S. Batino**

BUSINESSES are bullish on the country's economic prospects for the fourth quarter with the expected improvement in consumer demand during the Christmas season.

A quarterly survey of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed that local companies were expecting a weaker business activity in the third quarter largely due to anticipated poor weather conditions that was feared to slow down farm production and dampen productivity in general.

The expected recovery of world economies, particularly the United States during the first half, was proven tentative. As a result, more companies anticipated higher cost of borrowing as well as higher commodity prices in the coming months.

The main concern, however, was focused on the insufficiency of demand and consequently, an excess capacity that continued to prevent most respondents from considering any expansion plans for now.

Among the other concerns of local companies, according to the survey, are access to credit, financial problems, labor problems and competition.

The central bank poll in July covered more than 200 respondents belonging to 12 major industry groups. Respondent firms were drawn from Manila's top 3,000 corporations.

The survey showed that the diffusion index for the third quarter dipped to 25.2 percent from 47.5 percent in the previous survey. Positive results in the diffusion index means more respondents have improving, rather than deteriorating, outlook.

The expectations for the third quarter, using the index, was also less certain compared with the index of 31 percent during the second quarter.

For the last quarter, the index hit 45.8 percent, indicating the rosy expectations of the respondents largely on anticipation that demand will improve in the latter part of the year.

"In the fourth quarter, the bullish outlook is shared by firms from all sectors of the economy particularly services and industry. The employment index entered positive territory for the first time in five quarters with more firms planning to hire more workers by year-end," said BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura in a statement.

The inflation rate in the first seven months of the year averaged at a modest 3 percent as the consumer price index slid to a 30-month low of 2.6 percent in July.

Manila Polo Club Inc.

TO ALL CLUB MEMBERS:

The Board of Directors **was compelled to postpone** the Annual Meeting and Election to the Board of Directors to September 25, 2002. This decision was prompted by the August 16, 2002 ruling of the SEC, a copy of which was **received by the Club only on August 21, 2002**, five days prior to the scheduled meeting and election on August 26, 2002.

Following is the chronology of events that led to the board decision:

August 12, 2002:

The **Romulo group requested the SEC to subject the Polo Club to the requirements governing elections** per SEC Memorandum Circular No. 5 dated August 6, 1996. The effect of this circular, among other conditions, was to require the **submission of proxies for validation on August 21, 2002**, or five days prior to the scheduled election on August 26, 2002. **This has never been done in previous elections of the Club.**

August 13, 2002:

Sigiuon-Reyna, et. al, (SRMO), legal counsel of the Club, in a letter to the SEC, **disputed the applicability of the circular to the Polo Club**, citing SEC BED Resolution No. 371 S. 1979, dated June 18, 1979, issued by Associate Commissioner Julio A. Sulit, Jr., that Polo Club shares are exempt from registration requirements and therefore "not legally obligated to comply with the requirements" of said circular.

August 15, 2002:

The Romulo group refuted SRMO's position.

August 16, 2002:

The SEC confirmed that Memorandum Circular No. 5, "**when pertinent**, shall be applicable also to those stock and non-stock corporations". A copy of this ruling was **received by the Club only on August 21, 2002, which was the deadline for the 5-day proxy validation rule.**

August 21, 2002:

The Polo Club Board met in emergency session and **decided not to contest** the ruling. This was to **avoid a long drawn-out litigation that may unduly delay the election.**

The SEC circular imposed certain other requirements which cannot be complied with by the board **in view of the late receipt of the ruling.**

This compelled the board to postpone the meeting and election by thirty (30) days to September 25, 2002.

The postponement of the election **averts disenfranchising some members** who might not have submitted proxies by August 21 since they are **used to submitting proxies in previous years on the day of election.**

# Ecozone exports up 15%

**By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.**

EXPORTS from the country's economic zones surged by 15 percent in the first seven months this year indicating resilient sales of Philippine-made electronic products and semiconductors in the world market.

Philippine Economic Zone Authority Director General Lilia de Lima reported that exports from ecozones jumped to $12.937 billion from January to July this year from $11.28 billion during the same period last year.

Peza's export growth is three times the 4.3 percent growth of total exports of $16.668 billion in the first half this year from $15.988 billion a year ago.

If the economic zones sustain this pace for the rest of the year, De Lima said they would likely post a big turnaround from last year's dismal performance.

Peza exports dropped 2.5 percent to $19.498 billion last year, the first time the agency reported a decline since the 1990s. This mirrored the country's poor overall export performance last year which plunged 15.6 percent to $32.15 billion.

De Lima said the resilient export growth in ecozone exports should dispel the perceived doom and gloom in the country.

She said shipments of semiconductors and electronic products—that make up 60 percent of the ecozones' total exports—have remained buoyant despite the economic slowdown in the country's major export markets, the United States and Japan. She said most foreign buyers still found value in our products because of the quality and reliability of our output.

Aside from exports, Peza is expecting investments to rebound this year from its P35.7 billion investment last year. She said major expansion projects of giant electronic and semiconductor firms were in the pipeline. "We expect the new investments to come pouring in by the last quarter this year," De Lima said.

# BCDA open to BLC proposal

THE BASES Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) said it was studying a proposal by its Fort Bonifacio partner, Bonifacio Land Corp., to for the restructuring of its unpaid dues to the government.

BCDA president and CEO Rufo Colayco said the government was open to BLC's offer to settle its remaining dues to the BCDA (estimated at P1 billion) with either property or shares.

"We are candid enough to admit that these are not the best of times and that partners should help each other during this period. We think that any move we do should enhance the value of our 45-percent share in the Global City and helping our partner, BLC, is a step toward this direction," Colayco said.

He noted that the project was conceived at the height of the property boom in the 1990s while its implementation was hamstrung by the collapse of real estate prices that was precipitated by the Asian financial meltdown in 1997.

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TAIPAN Henry Sy (right), chair of Highlands Prime Inc., confers with Hans Sy (extreme left) and Willie Ocier (center), vice chairs and directors of Highlands Prime, during the company's first annual stockholders meeting. Highlands Prime, a high-end real estate developer, has announced its near- and long-term plans that include the P800-million Woodridge project set to start next month. The company expects P1.5 billion in earnings from this project alone.

# Belle revives horseracing club project

FIVE years after getting a congressional franchise to operate the Metro Manila Turf Club, leisure estate and gaming firm Belle Corp. is finally working on plans to venture into horseracing.

In an interview on the sidelines of Belle's stockholders' meeting last week, Belle vice chair Willy Ocier said talks with new investors were ongoing to develop a horseracing club in Batangas near Belle's flagship Tagaytay Highlands estate.

Belle is also holding talks with investors to roll out a nationwide offsite betting station, Ocier added.

These business ventures will cost an initial P500 million that will go mostly to the construction of offsite betting stations, he said.

Belle earlier planned to merge its Metro Manila Turf Club with two other racing clubs—the Philippine Racing Club and Manila Jockey Club.

Belle now believes it is the right time to capitalize on its own franchise, Ocier said.

"The horseracing industry has grown in the past five years. Ever since we got that franchise, it has grown by almost 100 percent in sales, especially after the jai alai was closed. That's why we feel it's about time that we develop it on our own," he said.

The Metro Manila Turf Club, which got a franchise to operate in 1997 but never took off, is 70-percent owned by Belle and 30 percent by subsidiary Sinophil Corp.

Belle's jai alai venture with the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. was shut down following Malacañang's decision to discontinue it.

"We are talking to investors who will put up the funding to put up the necessary infrastructure to develop our franchise and property for the business," Ocier said, noting that it was now difficult for new entrants to get a new franchise from Congress. *Doris C. Dumlao*

# SEC supports PSE plan to form dollar board

**By Elena R. Torrijos**

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has expressed support for the Philippine Stock Exchange's decision to create a dollar-denominated board.

SEC Chair Lilia Bautista told reporters last week that the commission had no objection to the creation of a dollar-denominated board and was simply waiting for the stock exchange's proposed rules.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas also has no objection to this plan, Bautista said.

She expressed optimism that the dollar-denominated board would protect investors from fluctuations in the peso's rate against the US dollar.

Under the PSE's proposal, the dollar-denominated board will allow investors to buy and sell issues that are also being traded abroad in dollars.

Among the first three issues set to be listed on the board are Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., Sun Life Financial Services and Manulife Financial Corp.

The stock exchange is hoping to put up a dollar-denominated board by November.

Stockbrokers tried using a dollar-denominated exchange before the Manila and Makati stock exchanges were unified, but the concept died a natural death.

With slumping stock prices and trading volumes, the stock exchange is hoping a dollar-denominated board will work this time.

Apart from a dollar-denominated board, the PSE is also looking to implement a fully automated system of trading shares.

Earlier this year, the PSE introduced a fixed-income exchange to service secondary trading of debt instruments, including government securities.

Stock exchange officials are scheduled to join business and government leaders next month on a road show to promote the Philippines as a good investment site.

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# ₱133-B deficit! Camacho won't budge it

## MR. BEARBULL

*Ron Nathan*

TWO Saturdays ago, I went to the furniture sale at the Megamall and bought myself a new bed. It is about time since I have not had one since I was 3. Believe it or not, the mattress turned up on Thursday, but the bed has not arrived yet! Apparently, the mattress was in one warehouse; the bed is in another. I felt like committing mattresside. Bearbull downgrades SMPH.

While I was being attended to, who should be standing in front of me but President Macapagal-Arroyo? I distinctly heard her tell the salesman that she needed to change her Cabinet. I thought nothing of it at that time. If I had realized its significance, I could have sold short.

I have not been feeling myself lately. Anyway, it is a disgusting habit.

My daughter started pre-school about six weeks ago. In one lesson, there were drawings of a number of objects, and the children had to indicate whether they were visual, auditory, tactile, olfactory or gustatory. Auditory is obvious—it is where auditors work. I knew olfactory meant smell because there is an old factory down the street that makes *bagoong*, and the smell is terrible. I figured out gustatory from the French *gouter* and the Latin *gustare*, but how many infants, or their parents, know these words? What is wrong with see, hear, touch, smell and taste?

The kids are performing nursery rhymes in a pageant, but some are so stupid, or out of date, that I took the liberty of rewriting them. Here is the first:

*Pussycat, pussycat, where have you been*
*I've been to London to visit the Queen.*
*I went to the funeral of Princess Diana*
*And Sir Elton John was playing the piano.*

I know it doesn't quite rhyme, but it is more intelligent than "I frightened a little mouse under the chair." Next case.

*Jack and Jill went up the hill*
*Some hamburgers to get.*
*Jack pulled out some razor blades,*
*Gillete. (Jill ate).*

Lastly, African-Americans are outraged by:

*Mary had a little lamb,*
*Its fleece as white as snow.*
*And everywhere that Mary went,*
*The lamb was sure to go.*

They complain that Caucasians always associate white with good, and black with evil. So, to placate their feelings, I wrote:

*Mary had a little lamb*
*Its fleece as black as soot*
*And everywhere that Mary went*
*His sooty foot he put.*

Here are a couple of limericks, if they get past the editor:

*There was an old man named Skinner*
*Who took a young girl out to dinner.*
*They started to dine*
*About quarter past nine*
*And at quarter to ten, he was in her.*

* * *

*There was a young plumber of Leigh*
*Was plumbing a maid by the sea.*
*Said the maid, "Cease your plumbing,*
*I think someone's coming."*
*Said the plumber, still plumbing, "It's me."*

The PSE is having a road show next month to promote foreign interest in our dying stock market. I applaud their intentions but feel that the timing could not be worse and suggest that they defer it until next year, when things will hopefully be better. Net turnover, excluding cross sales, fell to a record low of P83 million on Tuesday, the lowest figure that I can ever recall. In 1996-97, we were trading up to P4 billion a day.

The budget deficit for the first seven months already exceeded the P130-billion target for 2002, so obviously the government is going to overshoot by a considerable amount, unless they are going to cut back on eliminating poverty, health, education and low-cost housing. If they are forced to keep borrowing, interest rates will rise and economic growth will slow down. Ahead of the 2004 election, that spells political suicide.

Earlier in the week, foreign brokers were small net buyers, and even on Black Wednesday, when the index fell sharply, foreign brokers were only net sellers of P5 million. But on Thursday, after the decapitation of two innocent hostages, every foreign broker became a net seller. They sold P65 million out of net turnover of P139 million. These acts of terrorism will turn away foreign investors, so I feel that the road show is ill timed.

We have now had all the second-quarter results and numerically, including bombed out third liners, they were not encouraging. Many companies like FLI and BPI reported results much worse than expected, while others continued to lose millions. I won't name them—there are too many—and most are down over 90 percent from their highs.

TEL reported suspiciously good figures, but 90 percent came from SMART, which appears to be slowing down. PLTL is still losing money and must rank as one of the worst acquisitions ever made. GLOBE did better than SMART, but this did not stop the shares from hitting a new low.

JFC exceeded all expectations, and the shares are pushing hard against the resistance at P13.50. The reduction in the price of electricity should benefit the company considerably.

The best results came from FPH, which reported a 50-percent increase in sales and a 67-percent increase in profits. The shares are on a price earnings ratio of just over 2 and stand at a huge discount to book value, estimated by our research department at P53. Clearly, the shares are grossly undervalued, but investors fear that BPC, which is in a precarious financial state, may force FPH to get involved in financing one of their expensive projects. This could reduce its profit by 40 percent and increase its debt level so that its commercial paper would be downgraded.

*You can reach me, mrbearbull@hotmail.com but don't send any attachments. The central bank insists that the peso will return to 48 this year. Not without a stock dividend.*

# Sluggish trade seen

From page B1

"Unless we see any positive developments to counter those concerns, we expect this sluggish trade to continue this week," he said.

De Leon said investors would be waiting specifically for the scheduled release of GDP figures on Aug. 29.

"Unless there are any surprises in the GDP figures, we could expect the market to just hover at (current) levels," De Leon added.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index fell 56.31 points or by 4.9 percent over the week to close at 1,087.26 points at the close of Friday's trade.

The average daily volume during the week fell to 102.4 million shares worth P209.1 million from 264.86 million shares worth P346.12 million in the previous week.

Traders said the market was groping for the bottom and might start attracting bargain-hunters, as stocks have hit oversold levels.

Equitable PCI chief strategist Michael Ricafort said the market could retest its last low of 1,083.91 points in the coming week while adding that the next support level was at 1,075 points.

"Technically, however, the Philippine stock market index is about to indicate oversold signals that were last seen early this month and that could somehow limit further downside risks in the coming week," he said.

He noted it was thus feasible to see a short-term rebound to 1,100 to 1,115 points.

AB Capital Securities analyst Jose Vistan said the market was in dire need of good news to perk up investor interest.

He noted that the release of the good economic growth numbers by the National Economic and Development Authority on Thursday might just do the trick.

The Philippines is expected to have chalked up at least 3.8 percent in gross domestic product growth in the second quarter of the year from a year ago on improved contribution by the industry sector and the resilience of the services sector.

"The Phisix is very close to the year low of 1,083.91 points, a break of which will not augur well for the weeks to come. The market has absorbed a good deal of negative news and there is growing potential for a near-term rebound," Vistan said, noting, however that the thin volume was indicative of the lack of conviction.

"The market's upside will be limited until there are concrete signs of an economic turnaround. Investors are still advised to remain cautious given the lack of positive leads. The market may maintain its weakness, but we should see bargain hunting picking up again as the index tests successive support levels," he said.

Despite ongoing jitters over the country's domestic problems, stock market portal 2tradeasia.com agreed that those who want to go against the trend would likely seize the opportunity to get back into the market.

"The reality that would further support this view is the fact that prices are trading near historic lows, recovery normally follows as soon as economic troughs are breached, and more companies believe valuations have gone extremely low, enough to warrant their joining the share buy-back bandwagon," it said.

2tradeasia.com said it might pay off to start scouting for extremely beaten blue-chip stocks backed by solid fundamentals. ***Doris C. Dumlao with a report from AFP***

## PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Friday, August 23, 2002)

| STOCKS | OPEN | HIGH | LOW | CLOSE | VOLUME |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES** | | | | | |
| **BANKS** | | | | | |
| Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc. | 4.5 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 1,000 |
| Banco De Oro Univ. Bank | 16.75 | 17.75 | 16.75 | 17.75 | 306,000 |
| Bank of the Phil. Islands | 43 | 43 | 42 | 42 | 415,900 |
| Citystate Savings Bank | 14.25 | 14.25 | 14.25 | 14.25 | 2,000 |
| Equitable Pci Bank Inc. | 27 | 27.5 | 27 | 27.5 | 254,500 |
| Metropolitan Bank & Trust | 33.5 | 34 | 32.5 | 33 | 284,500 |
| Rizal Comm. Banking Corp. | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 9,000 |
| Security Bank Corp. | 13.5 | 13.5 | 13.25 | 13.25 | 8,000 |
| Union Bank of the Phil. | 18.25 | 18.25 | 18.25 | 18.25 | 15,000 |
| **FINANCIAL SERVICE** | | | | | |
| Bankard Inc. | 1.14 | 1.14 | 1.14 | 1.14 | 57,000 |
| Filipino Fund Inc. | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 60,000 |
| Manulife Financial Corp. | 1190 | 1190 | 1190 | 1190 | 330 |
| Sun Life Financial Serv. | 940 | 945 | 940 | 940 | 6,650 |
| **COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL** | | | | | |
| **COMMUNICATION** | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. | 21.25 | 21.25 | 21.25 | 21.25 | 500 |
| Digital Telecom Phils Inc. | 0.53 | 0.53 | 0.53 | 0.53 | 10,000 |
| Globe Telecom Inc. | 482.5 | 482.5 | 480 | 480 | 1,660 |
| Island Info and Tech Inc. | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.03 | 2,300,000 |
| Ism Communications Corp. | 0.022 | 0.024 | 0.022 | 0.024 | 500,000 |
| Piltel | 0.26 | 0.26 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 750,000 |
| Phil. Long Dis Tel Co. | 290 | 290 | 280 | 282.5 | 191,480 |
| Philweb.Com Inc. | 0.012 | 0.012 | 0.011 | 0.012 | 6,500,000 |
| **POWER & ENERGY** | | | | | |
| Manila Electric Co. A | 18.5 | 18.5 | 18.5 | 18.5 | 1,000 |
| Manila Electric Co. B | 27.5 | 28 | 27.5 | 27.5 | 17,300 |
| Petron Corp. | 1.64 | 1.64 | 1.62 | 1.62 | 742,000 |
| **TRANSPORTATION SERVICES** | | | | | |
| Asian Terminals Inc. | 1.16 | 1.16 | 1.16 | 1.16 | 134,000 |
| Int'l Container Term'l Sv | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 453,000 |
| William, Gothong & Aboitiz | 3.5 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 30,000 |
| **CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS** | | | | | |
| Alsons Cement Corp. | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 300,000 |
| Republic Cement Corp. | 0.42 | 0.42 | 0.42 | 0.42 | 100,000 |
| **FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO** | | | | | |
| Jollibee Foods Corp. | 13.5 | 13.5 | 13.25 | 13.5 | 261,800 |
| La Tondena Distillers Inc. | 31.5 | 31.5 | 31.5 | 31.5 | 10,600 |
| RFM Corp. | 0.77 | 0.77 | 0.76 | 0.76 | 180,000 |
| San Miguel Corp. A | 48.5 | 49 | 48.5 | 49 | 825,800 |
| San Miguel Corp. B | 52.5 | 52.5 | 51.5 | 51.5 | 166,400 |
| Vitarich Corp. | 0.32 | 0.32 | 0.32 | 0.32 | 100,000 |
| **HOLDING FIRMS** | | | | | |
| Ayala Corp. | 5.2 | 5.2 | 5 | 5.1 | 3,487,000 |
| Aboitiz Equity Ventures | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.28 | 2.28 | 254,000 |
| Alcorn Gold Res. Corp. | 0.006 | 0.006 | 0.006 | 0.006 | 10,000,000 |
| Anglo Phil Holdings Corp. | 0.28 | 0.28 | 0.28 | 0.28 | 50,000 |
| ATN Holdings Inc. | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 40,000 |
| Benpres Holdings Corp. | 0.225 | 0.225 | 0.22 | 0.22 | 7,100,000 |
| Basic Consolidated Inc. | 0.105 | 0.105 | 0.105 | 0.105 | 100,000 |
| Fil-Estate Corp. | 0.4 | 0.47 | 0.4 | 0.47 | 40,000 |
| Filinvest Dev. Corp. | 1.26 | 1.26 | 1.26 | 1.26 | 400,000 |
| First Phil Hldgs Corp. | 12 | 12 | 11.75 | 11.75 | 309,600 |
| Global Equities Inc. | 0.075 | 0.075 | 0.075 | 0.075 | 100,000 |
| Ionics, Inc. | 4.7 | 4.7 | 4.7 | 4.7 | 9,000 |
| Megaworld Corp. | 0.59 | 0.59 | 0.58 | 0.59 | 2,460,000 |
| Multitech Inv. Corp. | 0.42 | 0.42 | 0.42 | 0.42 | 10,000 |
| Music Corp. | 0.18 | 0.18 | 0.18 | 0.18 | 100,000 |
| **MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING** | | | | | |
| Corro-Coat Inc. | 1.28 | 1.28 | 1.28 | 1.28 | 1,000 |
| Metro Alliance Holdings | 0.62 | 0.69 | 0.62 | 0.69 | 100,000 |
| Mabuhay Vinyl Corp. | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 30,000 |
| Picop Resources Inc. | 0.0525 | 0.0525 | 0.0525 | 0.0525 | 1,200,000 |
| SPI Technologies Inc. | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 2,219,000 |
| **HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE** | | | | | |
| Belle Corp. | 0.32 | 0.34 | 0.31 | 0.31 | 1,950,000 |
| Fairmont Holdings Inc. | 0.47 | 0.47 | 0.46 | 0.46 | 450,000 |
| **BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS** | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr) | 21.75 | 21.75 | 21.5 | 21.5 | 891,300 |
| DMCI Holdings Inc.- Pref. | 775 | 775 | 775 | 775 | 5,000 |
| Jollibee Warrants | 13 | 13 | 13 | 13 | 10,300 |
| **PROPERTY** | | | | | |
| Ayala Land Inc. | 5.6 | 5.7 | 5.6 | 5.6 | 261,000 |
| Cityland Development Corp. | 2 | 2 | 1.98 | 1.98 | 166,000 |
| C & P Homes Inc. | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.19 | 0.19 | 190,000 |
| Cyber Bay Corp. | 0.15 | 0.16 | 0.15 | 0.16 | 1,100,000 |
| Empire East Land Inc. | 0.19 | 0.19 | 0.19 | 0.19 | 140,000 |
| Filinvest Land Inc. | 1 | 1.04 | 1 | 1.02 | 3,030,000 |
| Highlands Prime Inc. | 1.74 | 1.74 | 1.66 | 1.66 | 240,000 |
| Fil-Estate Land Inc. | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.25 | 0.29 | 6,310,000 |
| MRC Allied Ind. Inc. | 0.155 | 0.155 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 220,000 |
| SM Development Corp. | 0.89 | 0.9 | 0.89 | 0.9 | 460,000 |
| SM Prime Holdings Inc. | 5.7 | 5.8 | 5.7 | 5.8 | 3,498,000 |
| **MINING** | | | | | |
| Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A | 0.17 | 0.17 | 0.17 | 0.17 | 20,000 |
| Polar Mines & Dev't Corp. | 0.014 | 0.014 | 0.014 | 0.014 | 200,000 |
| Philex Mining Corp. B | 0.31 | 0.31 | 0.31 | 0.31 | 80,000 |
| **OIL** | | | | | |
| Imperial Res. | 0.011 | 0.011 | 0.011 | 0.011 | 1,500,000 |
| Oriental Pet. & Min. B | 0.0028 | 0.0028 | 0.0026 | 0.0026 | 5,000,000 |
| The Philodrill Corp. B | 0.16 | 0.16 | 0.16 | 0.16 | 50,000 |
| Pacifica | 0.011 | 0.011 | 0.011 | 0.011 | 13,200,000 |

| | SHARES | VALUE (P) |
|---|---|---|
| Banks & Fin Svc | 1,419,880 | 46,299,505.00 |
| Comm'l & Ind'l | 44,891,740 | 179,485,480.00 |
| PRO | 15,615,000 | 28,122,400.00 |
| Mining | 300,000 | 31,000.00 |
| OIL | 19,750,000 | 182,900.00 |
| GRAND TOTALS : | 81,976,620 | 254,121,285.00 |

| | AVERAGES | |
|---|---|---|
| Banks & Fin Svc | 423.52 | DOWN 3.68 |
| Comm'l & Ind'l | 1,500.44 | DOWN 19.39 |
| PRO | 510.40 | DOWN 0.35 |
| Mining | 1,125.93 | UNCH 0.00 |
| OIL | 1.35 | DOWN 0.01 |
| All Shares Index | 633.12 | DOWN 1.52 |
| Composite | 1,087.26 | DOWN 11.24 |

NO. OF ADVANCES: 15; NO. OF DECLINES: 32; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 31;
NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 78 NO. OF TRADES: 1,342

## CURRENCIES

Aug. 23, 2002

| Country | Unit | Euro Equivalent | Foreign currency in US$ | Foreign currency in Peso |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| United States | Dollar | 1.031885 | 1.000000 | 52.0890 |
| Japan | Yen | 0.008606 | 0.008340 | 0.4344 |
| United Kingdom | Pound | 1.569497 | 1.521000 | 79.2274 |
| Hong Kong | Dollar | 0.132295 | 0.128207 | 6.6782 |
| Switzerland | Franc | 0.679095 | 0.658111 | 34.2803 |
| Canada | Dollar | 0.661465 | 0.641026 | 33.3904 |
| Singapore | Dollar | 0.586932 | 0.568796 | 29.6280 |
| Australia | Dollar | 0.557414 | 0.540190 | 28.1380 |
| Bahrain | Dinar | 2.737169 | 2.652590 | 138.1708 |
| Saudi Arabia | Rial | 0.275170 | 0.266667 | 13.8904 |
| Brunei | Dollar | 0.588237 | 0.570060 | 29.6939 |
| Indonesia | Rupiah | 0.000117 | 0.000113 | 0.0059 |
| Thailand | Baht | 0.024435 | 0.023680 | 1.2335 |
| UAE | Dirham | 0.280969 | 0.272287 | 14.1832 |
| Korea | Won | 0.000872 | 0.000845 | 0.0440 |
| Euro | Euro | 1.000000 | 0.969100 | 50.4794 |
| Argentina | Real | 0.289043 | 0.280112 | 14.5908 |
| Brazil | Real | 0.326546 | 0.316456 | 16.4839 |
| Denmark | Kroner | 0.134650 | 0.130489 | 6.7970 |
| India | Rupee | 0.021298 | 0.020640 | 1.0751 |
| Malaysia | Ringgit | 0.271585 | 0.263193 | 13.7095 |
| Mexico | New Peso | 0.104994 | 0.101750 | 5.3001 |
| New Zealand | Dollar | 0.479211 | 0.464403 | 24.1903 |
| Norway | Kroner | 0.135125 | 0.130950 | 6.8211 |
| Pakistan | Rupee | 0.017372 | 0.016835 | 0.8769 |
| South Africa | Rand | 0.094912 | 0.091979 | 4.7911 |
| Sweden | Kroner | 0.108740 | 0.105380 | 5.4891 |
| Syria | Pound | 0.023345 | 0.022624 | 1.1785 |
| Taiwan | NT Dollar | 0.030421 | 0.029481 | 1.5356 |
| Venezuela | Bolivar | 0.000740 | 0.000717 | 0.0373 |

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| SELLING | |
|---|---|
| Alabang A/B | 1.5M/1.55M |
| Baguio Country Club | 720,000 |
| Camp John Hay Golf | 250,000 |
| Capitol Hills | 110,000 |
| Forest Hills "A"/"B"/"C" | 200,000/250,000/230,000 |
| Manila Golf (Corp.) | 11,950,000 |
| Manila Southwoods "A"/"B" | 590,000/590,000 |
| Makati Sports "B" | 260,000 |
| Mimosa | 120,000 |
| Mt Malarayat "A"/"C" | 330,000/450,000 |
| Rockwell Club | 375,000 |
| Tagaytay Highland Club | 415,000 |
| Wack Wack | 6,775,000 |

| BUYING: | |
|---|---|
| Alabang "A"/"B" | 1.5M/1.5M |
| Baguio Country Club | 710,000 |
| Capitol Hills | 100,000 |
| Celebrity | 175,000 |
| Forest Hills "B" | 235,000 |
| Manila Polo | 2,750,000 |
| Mt Malarayat "A"/"C" | 330,000/450,000 |
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| Canyon Woods | 190,000 | Pls. Call |
| Canlubang Golf | 550,000 | - |
| Calatagan Golf Club | 100,000 | - |
| Celebrity Sports Club | Pls. Call | Pls. Call |
| City Sports Club | 830,000 | Pls. Call |
| Club Filipino | Pls. Call | 150,000 |
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| Tagaytay Midlands | 830,000 | - |
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| Baguio Country Club | 680,000 | 730,000 |
| Calatagan Golf Club "A" | - | 85,000 |
| Calatagan Golf Club "B" | - | 110,000 |
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| Capitol Hills | - | 115,000 |
| Celebrity Sports Club | 170,000 | 180,000 |
| Eagle Ridge "A"/"B"/"C" | Please Call | Please Call |
| Eastridge "A" | - | 150,000 |
| Evercrest "A" | - | 100,000 |
| Forest Hills "A" | 210,000 | 220,000 |
| Forest Hills "B" | - | 250,000 |
| Forest Hills "C" | - | 270,000 |
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| Makati Sports Club "B" | Please Call | 300,000 |
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| Manila Southwoods "A" | Please Call | 600,000 |
| Manila Southwoods "B" | Please Call | 700,000 |
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| Metropolitan Club "B" | - | 150,000 |
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| Pueblo de Oro "A"/"B"/"C" | - | Please Call |
| Puerto Azul | - | 125,000 |
| Punta Fuego | - | Please Call |
| Quezon City Sports Club | 180,000 | 220,000 |
| Riviera Golf & Country Club "A" | - | Please Call |
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| Sherwood Hills "A" | - | 90,000 |
| Sta. Elena "A" | 1,600,000 | 1,750,000 |
| Sta. Elena "B" | - | 2,100,000 |
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| Forest Hills | 30,000 | Tagaytay Golf | 45,000 |
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| 6. COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY | 420,000.00 | - |
| 7. EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "C" | 500,000.00 | - |
| 8. EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB | 200,000.00 | - |
| 9. FONTANA "D" | 70,000.00 | - |
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| 11. MANILA GOLF CLUB (Corp.) | 11,650,000.00 | - |
| 12. MANILA POLO CLUB | - | 2,600,000.00 |
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# Gov't hoping to keep deficit at P5B a month

**By Clarissa S. Batino**

THE GOVERNMENT is hoping to limit its monthly budget deficit from August to December to about P5 billion to keep its full-year mark to P160 billion, close to the 20-percent allowance that monetary authorities, finance officials and business leaders are expecting.

On Saturday, sources revealed that Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho conceded in a teleconference with officials of a foreign bank that the government was unlikely to keep its budget deficit below the P30-billion ceiling set earlier.

The finance secretary reportedly said prospects for drastically boosting revenue collections for the rest of the year were not bright, lowering prospects of respecting the deficit ceilings.

"The best thing to do is to limit the deficit to about P5 billion each month in the last five months of the year so that the final number would not be much worse than what the government and the private sector have been expecting," a ranking government source told the INQUIRER.

Earlier last week, the finance department said the deficit in the first seven months of the year had hit P133 billion, already exceeding the government's full-year P130-billion ceiling.

Analysts say containing the deficit to P5 billion a month will not be an easy task.

Despite improved collections in July against a revised target for the Bureau of Internal Revenue alongside reduced spending, the deficit for the month still grew by P13.3 billion from about P12 billion in June.

Budget officials have said the government has already made cuts in spending and cannot do more without endangering economic growth.

Government sources have said projections by a technical group show the deficit for 2002 is likely to be around P155 billion. *With a report from AFP*

# BSP unlikely to relax policy on key rates

A VOLATILE peso and a growing budget deficit have thwarted plans by local monetary authorities to relax the central bank's overnight rates and follow any easing that the US Federal Reserve may do.

"If the Fed makes a symbolic cut, we might as well stay with our present level, which is not so bad because our rates have remained low," Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said.

The central bank's overnight rates of 7 percent for borrowing and 9.25 percent for lending are the lowest in 10 years.

Recent developments have dampened the likelihood of higher interest rates.

The local currency has been volatile over the past few days on reports that the government has already exceeded its year-round budget deficit target of P130 billion and renewed extremist violence in Mindanao.

The peso closed at 52.36 to a dollar on Friday, its lowest level since Aug. 9, 2001.

Earlier last week, the finance department said the deficit in the first seven months of the year had hit P133 billion.

Buenaventura also raised the specter of inflationary pressures resulting from a long dry spell associated with the El Niño weather phenomenon. *Clarissa S. Batino*

# Clear anti-graft bills, Boncodin urges solons

BUDGET Secretary Emilia Boncodin is again prodding lawmakers to approve bills seeking to create the Internal Revenue Management Authority and crack down on corruption in the government's procurement process.

In an interview, Boncodin said lawmakers should be reminded that these proposed laws would help the government check its growing budget deficit problems.

A number of congressmen and senators have expressed concern over the government's ballooning budget deficit, as it may trim their "pork barrel" allocations in the run-up to the 2004 elections.

Boncodin said the passage of bills creating Irma, which would replace the Bureau of Internal Revenue, should help augment the government's tax collections.

The proposed procurement law, on the other hand, will check leakage on the spending side, she added.

"These two measures would help solve the government's fiscal problems," she stressed.

Economic officials have recently been scrambling to find ways to check the government's widening budget deficit.

Earlier last week, the Department of Finance said the deficit in the first seven months of the year had hit P133 billion, already exceeding the government's full-year P130-billion ceiling.

# Gov't, Shell plan gas exploration in Mindoro

**By Ronnel W. Domingo**

THE GOVERNMENT'S oil and gas exploration unit is in preliminary talks with British oil giant Royal Dutch/Shell Group of Companies to explore for natural gas in Mindoro.

PNOC-Exploration Development Corp. chair Sergio Apostol said in an interview that should the government and Shell agree to form a joint venture, the Mindoro gas exploration project would become part of PNOC-EDC's overall program to harness natural gas to meet the country's energy needs.

The Philippine National Oil Co.'s largest subsidiary is also looking for natural gas in Central Luzon and Cotabato.

PNOC-EDC created a stir early this year when it discovered a natural gas flow in Tarlac. The discovery, however, later proved uneventful as the gas was contaminated with water.

Shell is looking for more gas deposits to supplement its Camago-Malampaya discovery, Apostol said.

The Department of Energy announced in April that a recent study showed that the country's total petroleum resources—oil, natural gas and condensate—could reach as much as 8.9 billion barrels of oil equivalent.

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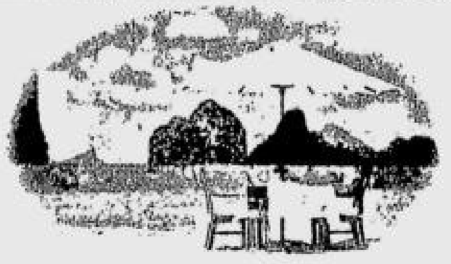

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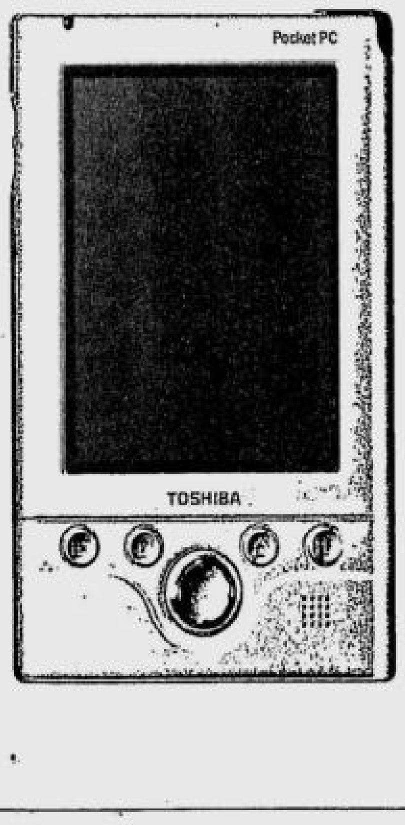

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### THE DEFICIT AND THE STRAW MAN

# Are the sins of the past catching up with us?

By Jose Edgardo Campos

**COMMENTARY**

WHETHER one scours the academic literature or the popular press, much of the writing on political economy and development has placed politics and politicians as the prime determinants of an economy's performance. Politicians are often viewed as rent-seeking, self-interested manipulators who use their powers and influence to bias economic policies in favor of the interest groups they represent. The economy is, thus, at their mercy. Hence, the proverbial "need for political will" emerged as the supposed key to any economic reform program, and with this the constant flirtation with "enlightened" dictatorships.

But that was then. The 1990s have fundamentally changed the way the world works. Democracies have sprung from failed dictatorships, giving birth to or, in some cases, encouraging the rebirth of an aggressive (fault-finding) free press. And following not too far behind has been the liberalization of financial markets. Today, capital can move much more freely from one country to another, and individuals can purchase foreign exchange with little restraint just about anywhere in the world. As a result, the exit options of private capital have multiplied many fold.

The giant strides in information technology have magnified the impact of these phenomena beyond expectations. Today, information is much more quickly and easily accessible to large segments of the population, including much of the rural poor. Cable television and Internet cafés now grace many cities and towns and can even be found in poor areas. In parallel, funds can now be transferred almost instantaneously from one account to another across borders to countries thousands of miles away. Individuals can now manage their bank and portfolio accounts from the home, even if their banks or brokers are thousands of miles away.

### Fundamental reordering

These developments are giving rise to a fundamental reordering of politics and economics. Today, economics dictates the fate of most, if not all, governments, both in developing and developed countries. The Asian financial crisis that brought the so-called miracle to a shocking halt is an incontrovertible testimony to this. Perhaps an even more poignant illustration comes from the recent chaos that has bewitched Argentina. There, a crumbling economy (due undoubtedly to gross fiscal mismanagement) has triggered five changes in government, all in a period of six weeks, and has brought the unprecedented wrath of the populace on politicians regardless of party, color, or stand.

Indeed, the situation has changed markedly in just over a decade. While politics may still govern the wheels of decision-making, the logic of market economics, now more than ever, influences the direction, nature and rate of decision-making.

### Major barometer

Perhaps among the various economic indicators that governments, politicians, analysts and rating agencies track, the budget deficit has become the major barometer of a country's potential medium-term economic performance. This indicator is not simply the net sum of government revenues less its expenditures. It parsimoniously captures much of what the government does with its annual budget to promote growth and reduce poverty. This is why analysts appear to be overly and incessantly preoccupied with a country's budget deficit; not only do they look at the number but more importantly they also delve into the myriad of reasons why that number is large or small. Not surprisingly, a large deficit sets off alarm bells throughout the financial and investment community.

Because of its enormous signaling value, the budget deficit—and, in particular, the manner in which it is managed—should now command the primary attention of political leaders. Today, forces beyond the control of any individual, organization, such as the International Monetary Fund, or country demand that attention. In fact, there is empirical evidence that suggests that the deficit is a—if not the—primary factor that financial markets react to in evaluating the medium-term growth potential of countries. It is no longer just the IMF hounding the government over unsustainable deficits. Markets now make these demands. And markets exact heavier penalties which no government can negotiate its way out of.

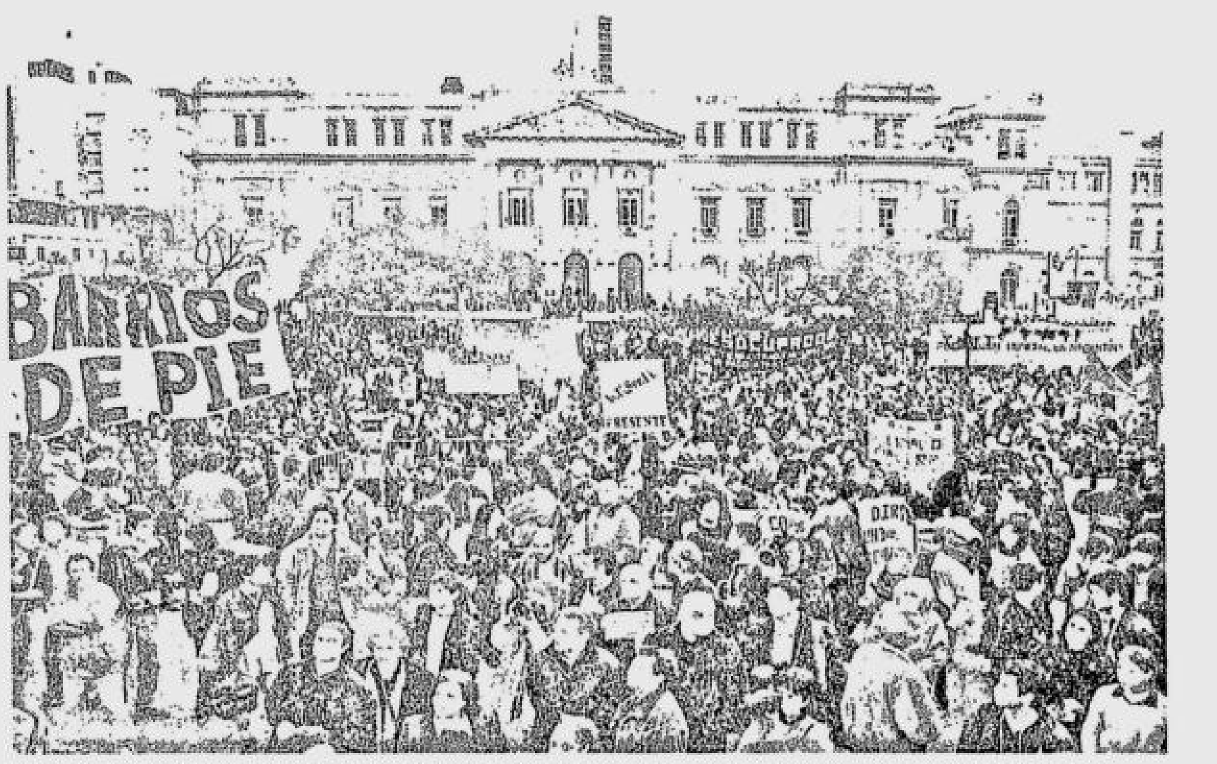
Indeed today the deficit has taken center stage, with our government confronting the necessity of scaling down, in midyear, both the annual revenue targets and the planned expenditures. The exchange rate has reacted almost instantaneously to the larger-than-expected mid-year deficit, already breaching the government's full-year target. The specter of rising interest rates and falling investments looms in the shadows.

### Repeat scenes

But this scene has been replayed practically every year for the last five years. At the beginning of the year, the government announces its target deficit (for example, 4 percent of gross domestic product) together with the corresponding revenue targets and planned total expenditures. In the middle of the year, it says, "Oops, we overestimated our expected revenue intake so we will adjust our expenditures downward to meet the deficit target."

Markets can only take so much of this. For one year, and maybe even for two, they can give the government the benefit of the doubt. But beyond that, they start to penalize the country. They begin to doubt the credibility of the government, weakening the latter's ability to manage market expectations. The result: higher interest rates, lower investment, slower growth, higher unemployment, that is—bad news.

Wherein lies the problem? That depends on the approach used to determine the revenue targets.



**DEMONSTRATORS** gather at the Plaza Housay in Buenos Aires. Today, economics dictates the fate of most, if not all, governments. A poignant illustration comes from the recent chaos that has bewitched Argentina. There, a crumbling economy—due undoubtedly to gross fiscal mismanagement—has triggered five changes in government, all in a period of six weeks, and has brought the unprecedented wrath of the populace on politicians regardless of party, color, or stand.

One way or another, revenues (mostly tax collections) for the year have to be estimated. There are two basic approaches used to do this. The first involves the following sequence of actions: first, estimate revenues for the year; then determine what an acceptable deficit is, and finally derive the implied budget that the estimated revenues can support (given the acceptable deficit). The other involves somewhat of a reverse sequence: first, fix the deficit target, then determine how much the government wants to spend, and finally set revenue targets so that the planned expenditures can be funded accordingly.

### Analogy

The implications of the two approaches are rather technical but can be explained by analogy. Imagine a husband and wife, John and Marsha, both of whom run a small shop of their own. At the beginning of the year, they estimate their potential earnings over the next 12 months. Then they estimate how much they can borrow from the bank, relatives, credit cards, etc. Then finally, they look at the expenses that they will necessarily have to incur during the year, e.g. tuition of children, as well as those expenditures that they would like to make if they had the funds, for example, a new sofa. They discover that the necessary and their desired expenses exceed their projected earnings, plus whatever money they can borrow. So they decide to delete some of the desired expenses from their list. Moreover, to be on the conservative/safe side, they set aside part of the projected earnings for emergencies or as a buffer for unforeseen events.

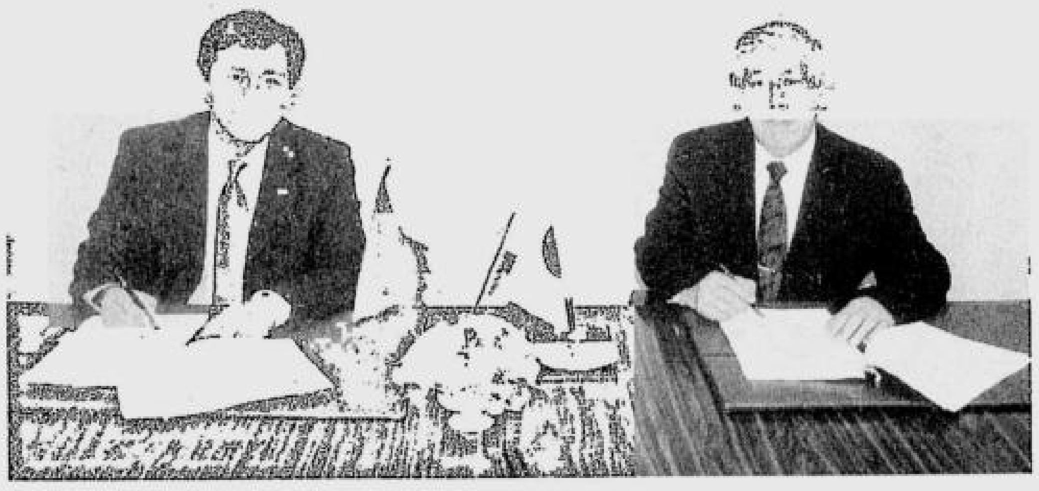
Then there is Jun and Meldy. This couple does things differently. First they determine the things that they need or would like to purchase over the course of the year. Jun is generally frugal so tries to be conservative. Meldy, however, likes to spend. So she pressures Jun into adding a few more things arguing that they can earn the money to pay for these anyway. Jun, being a nice guy, says, "Okay." Now, being the consummate shopper, Meldy is not satisfied and so adds even more to the list, again arguing they just need to make a little more to cover the additional expense. So at the end of their budget preparation, the couple has a "Saks Fifth Avenue" expenditure plan for the year. The couple then determines how much they can borrow or charge to their credit card. Having done that, they then estimate how much they would have to make in sales over the year to finance their planned expenditures. The year starts and all seems well. But midway through, they realize that sales are not doing as well as they projected. Unfortunately, they had already made considerable purchases early in the year. Now, they must cut down, even on tutoring for their impaired son. They have fallen prey to the weakness of the second approach. Spending is determined with little consideration of any budget constraint and, thus, lack discipline. The results can be disastrous.

### Straw man

Based on empirical observations, revenue forecasting in our country is more akin to Jun and Meldy. This has had the unfortunate side effect of setting up a straw man who can be punched and pummeled to the ground when things go wrong. Who might that straw man be? Nobody else but the heads of revenue collection agencies who, in practice, have very little to do with revenue forecasting, except to provide raw data, but whose agencies are required to raise the derived revenue targets. When targets are imposed from above, the collector's fate is at the mercy of the proficiency at which forecasts are formulated.

What is worse, given the emergent primacy of markets, the deficiencies in revenue forecasting can destroy the very credibility the government needs to manage the economy effectively. Alas, the sins of our past now haunt us.

*(Dr. Jose Edgardo Campos, PhD., is president of Procurement Watch Inc., a non-partisan, non-profit civil society organization involved in the fight against graft and corruption in government through procurement reforms.)*



**GSEC 102**

**Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. and Japan Petroleum Exploration Co. Ltd. executive vice president Fumio Okabe sign geophysical survey and exploration contract 102 allowing Japex to explore for oil and gas in offshore Tañon Strait, Negros Occidental.**

# Appointment of tech undersecretary a prelude to creating IT department

THE APPOINTMENT of a new undersecretary for information and communications technology is seen paving the way for the splitting of the Department of Transportation and Communications' functions and eventual creation of a new department.

Newly appointed ICT Undersecretary Virgilio Peña said last week that the government's thrust was to institutionalize information and communications technology in the country.

Creating a department concentrating on it could be the way to achieve that, he said.

"My entry into the DOTC will hopefully pave the way for the creation of the Department of Information and Communications Technology. I think this is the start of what the department will eventually look like," he added.

While already appointed to the DOTC, Peña will still serve as the executive director of the Information Technology and E-Commerce Council headed by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Peña said the ITECC would still serve its purpose by being the President's coordinating body for information and communications technology.

On the creation of the DICT, Peña said it would still take some time, as the pending bills at the House of Representatives were still being debated at the committee level.

"They're trying to consolidate the bills into a single bill," he said.

Senators Ramon Magsaysay Jr. and Aquilino Pimentel filed bills seeking the creation of the DICT only during the latter part of the Senate's last session.

Once created, the DICT will handle the telecommunications and information technology functions of the DOTC.

Transportation will then be under the jurisdiction of the Department of Public Works and Highways.

*Abigail L. Ho*

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## EARNINGS WARNINGS IMMINENT

# Wall Street scores big wins, but faces setbacks

NEW YORK—Finally, Wall Street is making some progress, with five straight winning weeks that pushed the Dow Jones industrials back above 9,000.

The market's broader gauges are also advancing with the Standard & Poor's rising for five weeks in a row, and the Nasdaq composite claiming three consecutive winning weeks.

But because the stock market tends to look forward rather than revel in the past, analysts warn that it might suffer setbacks in the coming weeks, as companies issue their third-quarter earnings warnings, another series of economic reports is released and the nation marks the anniversary of the terror attacks.

Many analysts believe the market hit a low in a grueling 11-week sell-off that ended three weeks ago. The Dow has regained 1,170 points since its July 23 low of 7,702.34. On Thursday, the blue chips also made their first close above 9,000 for the first time since July 9, although they fell back on Friday.

This past week also marked the first time in nine months that the major indexes all had three consecutive weekly gains. The last time that happened was the three-week period ending Nov. 23.

"I think the capitulation stage is behind us," said Kevin Caron, market strategist at Ryan, Beck & Co.

But market observers are wary of getting too excited too soon, acknowledging that September is likely to be trying for Wall Street.

Many in the investment community are uncertain how investors will handle the one-year anniversary of the attacks, but they do expect the economy to weigh on the market. *AP*

# Daewoo may halt operations

SEOUL—South Korea's Daewoo Motor Co. may screech to a halt in the week ahead as suppliers angered at delays in back payments threaten to halt deliveries, industry sources said Saturday.

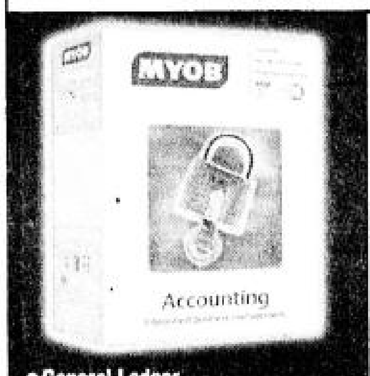
The 191 suppliers plan to meet on Monday to discuss measures to press their case against Daewoo, which would likely include stopping delivery of parts and components.

"The possibility of stopping supplies is currently higher than 50 percent. Suppliers have been suffering from a severe financial pinch because of the delays in payment," a spokesperson for the suppliers told journalists.

He said some 30 suppliers are on the brink of bankruptcy, while 32 others have already gone belly-up.

The suppliers have repeatedly asked the government and Daewoo Motor creditors to settle back payments, but appeals have fallen on deaf ears, said the spokesperson. *AFP*

What drives filipino SMEs into business efficiency & growth?



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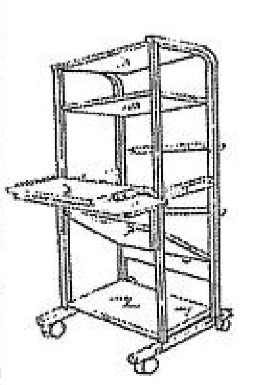

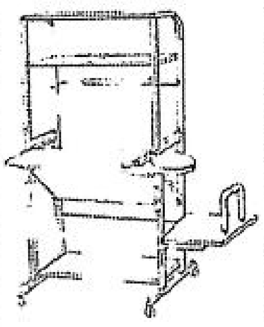

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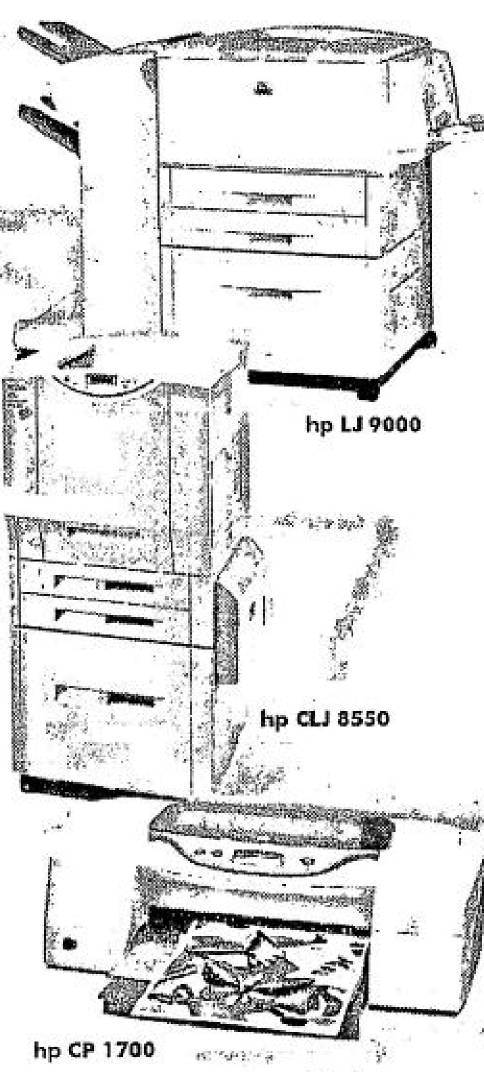

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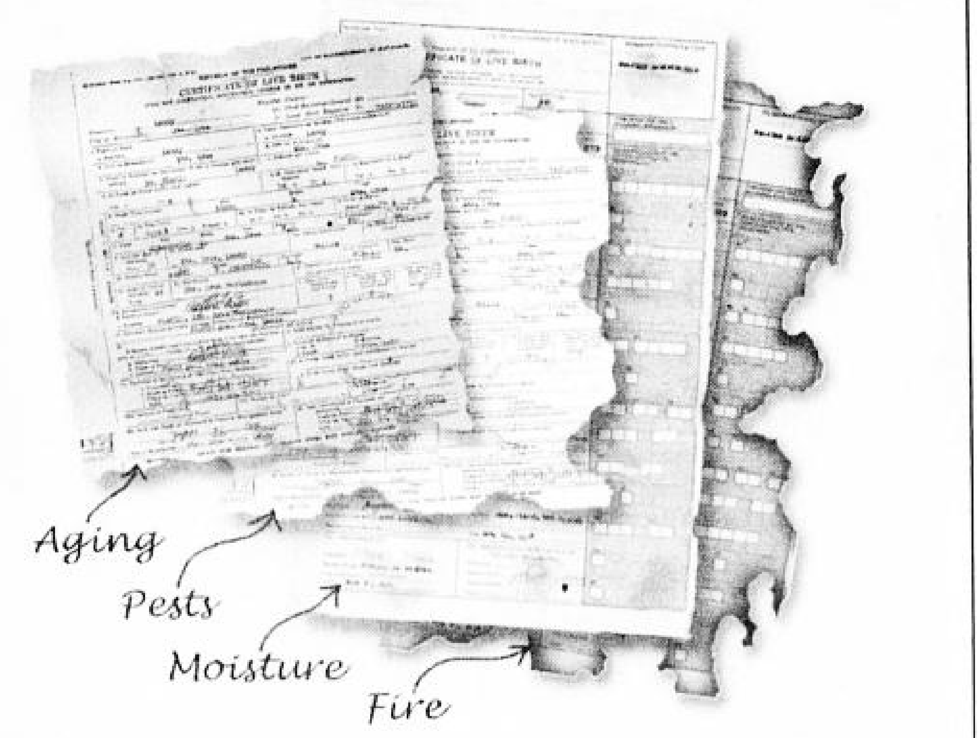

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# People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

## Nestle Ice Cream exported to US, Asia and Middle East

NESTLE Philippines Inc. (NPI) is now exporting its Nestle Ice Cream to the United States, Asia and the Middle East.

Nestle Ice Cream division head Ian Donald said ice cream exports have grown double-digits since 2000 with the tapping of new markets, including both Nestle affiliates and independent distributors. Exports for 2002 are expected to reach revenues of nearly US$1 million.

The export range includes both novelty and bulk ice cream products. Novelties are ice cream products in small packs which consumers buy on impulse, whereas bulk products refer to ice cream contained in tubs of 1 gallon and ½ gallon and pint.

Ice cream novelties are exported to Nestle companies abroad such as Hong Kong and Thailand. Nestle bulk ice cream, on the other hand, is exported to the United States, Australia, Taiwan and the Middle East.

Nestle novelties cater more to the local population of the importing country, while particular Nestle bulk flavors cater to the Filipino community in the countries where they are exported.

According to Donald, the bulk's popularity can be attributed to the growing number of Filipinos working abroad who long for that distinctly Filipino taste of ice cream. "For them, Nestle ice cream brings back childhood memories, giving them the warm feeling that they are back home," he said. Selling well in these countries are bulk flavors like Mango, Ube, Halo-Halo, Chunky Macapuno, Buco Avocado, Buco Salad, Double Cheese, Buco Melon, Maja Mais, Ube Queso, Fruit Salad, Double Dutch and Durian.

**RP HOSTS 3RD ASEAN INSURANCE CONGRESS**

The Philippines, under the auspices of the government regulatory body the Insurance Commission and the life and non-life insurance industry umbrella organizations – the Philippine Life Insurance Association (Plia) and the Insurance Surety Association of the Philippines (Isap), respectively, will host the 3rd Asean Insurance Congress to be held from Sept. 24 to 26 at the Dusit Hotel Nikko in Makati. The Asean Insurance Congress will bring together insurance executives from Brunei, Indonesia, Myanmar, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam as they address the concerns of the insurance industry and exchange and interact among themselves. Shown are the members of the Congress' organizing committee led by honorary chair Insurance Commissioner Eduardo Malinis (seated, center). Seated with him are (from left) Tess Valeriano, co-treasurer, Jaime C. Fernandez and Victoria Roman-Flores, co-chairs, and Ernesto RD Villareal Jr., co-treasurer. Standing, from left, are Ignacio A. Macrohon Jr., co-chair of ways and means; Araceli Ballesfin, assistant secretary, Sylvia D. Amansec, chair, working committee, Marietta Gorrez, secretary, and Santiago Gascon, co-chair, , food, venue and beverages.

**STERLING'S SMARTY PROMOTES FUN LEARNING**

Smarty, the official mascot of Sterling Paper Products, promotes fun through learning. The lovable owl recently finished an almost two-month-long guestings in various events such as the Batang E-TV launch of the ABS-CBN Foundation, the First Bangus Festival in Dagupan City and store grand openings. Sterling Paper is the maker of high-quality photo albums, greeting cards, notebooks and other school and office supplies. Smarty is flanked by Randy Marasigan and Joey Campollo of Sterling's ad and PR department.

## Scholarships available under Juilliard-trained actress

SCHOLARSHIPS for actors to train with Ana Valdes-Lim are available now through a grant from the Juan and Lualhati Cojuangco Foundation and the Luis H. Lim Foundation. The new acting scholars must have a commitment to acting and training others in their own communities. Call for information and deadlines.

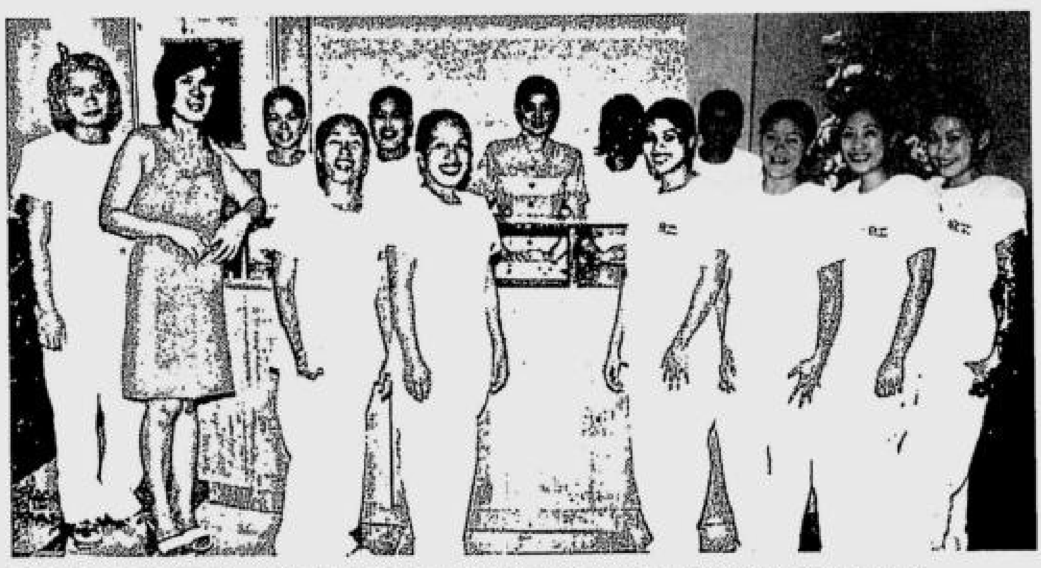
Come watch free acting demo classes directed by Juilliard trained Ana Valdes-Lim on Monday evenings. Comedic/dramatic improv classes are open to the public every Monday evenings from 7:15 to 8:15 p.m. at the Philippine Playhouse Studio, 1269 Batangas Street, 2nd Floor, Makati (near Cash N' Carry). For reservations, call 879-8230 or 0917-8998158.

New acting classes in stage voice and diction, acting in commercials, TV and film acting, and children and teen classes open Sept. 14. Call now and reserve.

Ana comes from the school of Robin Williams ("Good Will Hunting"), Kevin Spacey ("American Beauty"), Ving Rhames ("Pulp Fiction"), Bradley Whitford ("West Wing"), Kevin Kline ("Big Chill"), William Hurt ("Children of a Lesser God"), Patti Lupone and Mandy Patinkin ("Evita") and Jean Trippelhorn ("The Firm"). Ana recently returned to Manila after four years in Los Angeles. She performed with Joe Papp's Public Theater and the New York Shakespeare Festival in "Romeo and Juliet" and "As You Like It". She played Liat in New York City Opera's "South Pacific". She performed and taught for John Houseman's acting company at Washington DC's Kennedy Center and UCLA. On film she starred with Dennis Dun and Victor Wong in John Carpenter's "Prince of Darkness". She played Ming Na Wen's ("Joy Luck Club") young mother in CBS' "As the World Turns". Most recently Ana worked with Chay Yew at the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles. Ana is currently directing "Drakula" at CCP's Little Theater for Tanghalang Pilipino opening Sept. 6.

**KODAK PROFESSIONAL SPONSORS CAMERA CLUB**

Felice Sta. Maria (center), the first woman president of the Camera Club of the Philippines, is flanked by representatives of Kodak Professional channel manager Diana Pilapil and Buddy Novenario, manager of Digital and Applied Imaging. Kodak Professional continues to be CCP's principal sponsor this year, and covers the Kodak Cup top 10 trophies, raffle prizes and the Digital Contest top prize: A Kodak Digital Camera.



**SPA FOR TEENS, EXPECTANT MOMS OPENS IN TOMAS MORATO**

Family Health Spa in Tomas Morato corner Roces Avenue, Quezon City recently opened to provide an all-around experience of health, beauty and rejuvenation to each member of the family. Moms and daughters, even dads and sons, can avail themselves of different treatments in spacious cubicles. The expectant mom's package (massage and body scrub) and the golfer's club package (foot massage, and cucumber ginger cleansing rub for sore, sunburned skin) are just a few of the unique treatments being offered. To further enhance this holistic experience, Family Health Spa flew in no less than an authentic Chinese masseuse to train the therapists in the art of Chinese foot massage. 'At Family Health Spa, we make sure everyone is given a healing experience,' says managing directress Zeny Feliciano, shown here with her staff. For inquiries, call 926-9322.

## BITS Clips

### Wendy's promotes

WENPHIL Corp., the exclusive franchisee of Wendy's International, announces the promotion of Jason John WS Lim as general manager, replacing Yvette P. Orbeta who was appointed as the company president.

Lim, who has been with Wendy's for the past six years, started as information services manager and subsequently as materials manager director. He has a degree in economics from the University of the Philippines.

### Video City members get discounts

GOOD NEWS to all Video City members. The leading video retail and rental shop in the country gives bonus discounts to all loyal members. By presenting the Video City membership card, members can get discounts and special privileges from different establishments. The latest establishments to join have been Informatics Computer Institute, which gives 5-percent discounts on any course, and Manels, which gives 10-percent discounts on all regular items to all cardholders.

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**CALL 75 TEXAS FOR DELIVERY**

Since July 1, Texas Chicken has been using its new delivery number 75 Texas (758-3927). Now it will reach areas as far south as Calamba, as far north as Valenzuela, as far east as Cainta, and as far west as Roxas Boulevard. Shown during the contract signing held recently are (from left) Mavie Marquez-Eribal and Santi M. Dapul of Texas Chicken, Armando B. Escobar, president of Vitarich Corp., Connie L. Javier and Lourdes Rosario Da Rosa, general manager and president, respectively of Cling (Customer Loyalty Ingenuity Inc.) which will handle the Call Center of Texas.

### DLSU-D 'anting-anting' exhibit

IN CELEBRATION of its 25th anniversary, De La Salle University-Dasmarinas will hold an exhibit of the works of the Anting-Anting Group of Artists at the Museo de La Salle Aug. 29. The Anting-Anting Group of Artists, primarily composed of Caviteno visual artists, will feature their works in mixed media that depicts spirituality and Filipino culture and tradition. The exhibit, sponsored by DLSU-D's Institutional Communications Office in cooperation with the Museo de La Salle, will run until Oct. 30. For inquiries, call 844-7832, 844-9116, or (046)416-4531 local 3151. Look for Cecile T. Gelicame.

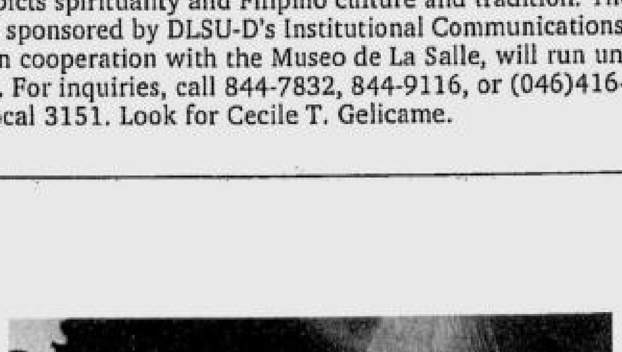
ADP Industries Corporation
SPLASH ISLAND

**ADPIC GOES TO SPLASH ISLAND**

ADP Industries Corp. (Adpic) treated its roster of hardworking employees for a whole-day holiday spree at Splash Island Resort at Southwoods Eco-Centrum, Biñan, Laguna. The Adpic fun-loving individuals are headed by its president Arthur D. Palileo. ADP Industries Corp. is one of the leading distribution, marketing and trading companies in the country. Adpic distributes popular products such as Smint, Freixenet Wines, Chupa Chups Fun and Toy Products, Veterano Brandy, Super 25 Filters, Tarshield Filters, Concern Filters, and Cricket Lighters.

## Product FILES

### MasterCard freebies



MASTERCARD International is offering MasterCard and MasterCard Electronic cardholders in the Philippines an array of delightful prizes in its latest promotion MasterCard's Priceless Delights. With a single minimum purchase of P1,000 at any participating shop in Shangri-La Plaza Mall or Power Plant at Rockwell, cardholders are qualified to join the fun Dice Game for a chance to win instant MasterCard gift items, including traveling bags, wallets, wall clocks, umbrellas, and ball caps. Participants win if they get any of the winning combinations on the dice.

MasterCard is also giving away lots of free ticket premiums for movies, stage plays, bowling, and 50 cash credits worth P20,000 each in the three monthly raffle draws. MasterCard's Priceless Delights is ongoing until Sept. 30.

# US to conclude trade deals with Chile, Singapore

WASHINGTON—The Bush administration has told Congress that it plans to complete free trade pacts with Chile and Singapore and pursue talks with Morocco and five Central American countries, the US Trade Representative's office said on Friday.

In a letter sent to members of Congress on Thursday, US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick said the free trade negotiations with Chile and Singapore were "near completion" after almost two years of talks.

Zoellick, in two separate letters, also told lawmakers he planned to move "expeditiously" to pursue free trade negotiations with Morocco and the Central American countries after months of discussing that possibility.

The letters come on the heels of congressional approval this month of "trade promotion authority," which enhances the administration's ability to negotiate new trade pacts.

However, a US trade official said the letters did not represent "formal" notification of the administration's intention to conclude or initiate trade negotiations, as required under the new trade legislation.

Instead, the correspondence was intended mainly to demonstrate the administration's seriousness in moving ahead and to urge lawmakers to quickly convene the Congressional Oversight Group established under the trade act, he said.

That group includes the Democratic and Republican leaders of the Senate finance committee and the House ways and means and committee, as well as three additional members from each of the two panels. The chairs and ranking members of the House and Senate agriculture committees are also members.

Zoellick called for the first meeting of the oversight group shortly after lawmakers return in early September.

Former President Bill Clinton began free trade talks with Singapore and Chile during his final months in office in 2000.

Although the Bush administration continued the negotiations, it said it needed Congress to approve trade promotion authority before it could conclude the deals. *Reuters*

# 3 US airlines forge broad alliance

WASHINGTON—Three big US airlines—Delta, Continental and Northwest—announced Friday a broad alliance to weather a crisis that is forcing some carriers toward bankruptcy.

The airlines said they would share the same flight codes and let customers earn credits for each other's mileage programs, subject to approval from the authorities and their existing partners.

The agreement also calls for talks to include Continental, Northwest and their international partner, KLM, in the SkyTeam international airline alliance.

SkyTeam's current membership includes Delta, Aeromexico, Alitalia, Air France, CSA Czech Airlines and Korean Air.

"In recent weeks, some carriers have announced major restructuring, employee cutbacks, even bankruptcy," Delta chair and chief executive Leo Mullin said in a statement.

"This proposed agreement represents an important part of our plan to strengthen our competitive position in today's extraordinarily difficult operating environment."

Delta Air Lines, Continental Airlines and Northwest Airlines are the third, fourth and fifth largest carriers in United States.

News of the deal had little impact on their share prices on a generally weaker market.

By the end of trading Friday, Delta shares had slipped $1.03, down 5.15 percent to $18.97; Continental was down 21 cents, or 1.91 percent, to $10.80; and Northwest was down 55 cents, or 4.8 percent, to $10.90. *AFP*

# Lucent says extent of job cuts unknown

CHICAGO—Lucent Technologies Inc. plans to cut more jobs to reduce expenses, but it said on Friday that any layoffs would be on a smaller scale than the 15,000 job cuts reported by a financial news website.

TheStreet.com reported that Lucent is planning another round of job cuts that could reduce the telecommunications equipment maker's work force by as much as 15,000 jobs, bringing its total employment to between 30,000 and 35,000.

Lucent, which currently employs about 50,000, previously had said it aimed to reduce its work force to about 45,000 employees by the end of the calendar year.

Last month, the Murray Hill, New Jersey-based company said it was developing other plans to reduce costs and additional job cuts may be necessary. It said any actions would likely be identified during the company's fourth-quarter earnings announcement in October.

Lucent said it has not determined exactly how many jobs would be cut, but it called TheStreet.com's report that 15,000 jobs may be at risk "ludicrous." "Our current plans get us to about 45,000 employees by the end of the calendar year," she said. "To speculate that we're going to cut another 30 percent is ludicrous." Lucent declined further comment on TheStreet.com report.

Some analysts think Lucent's employment could fall below 40,000. The company employed 106,000 at the start of 2001. *Reuters*

# Japan approves biotech corn, soybean imports

TOKYO—Three varieties of biotechnology-processed corn and soybeans recently passed stringent tests by Japan's Health Ministry, paving the way for more importation of these environment-friendly crop varieties.

The approval brings to a total of 43 varieties of six genetically modified plants Japan has approved for human consumption, which include corn, soybean, sugar beet, potato, rapeseed and cotton.

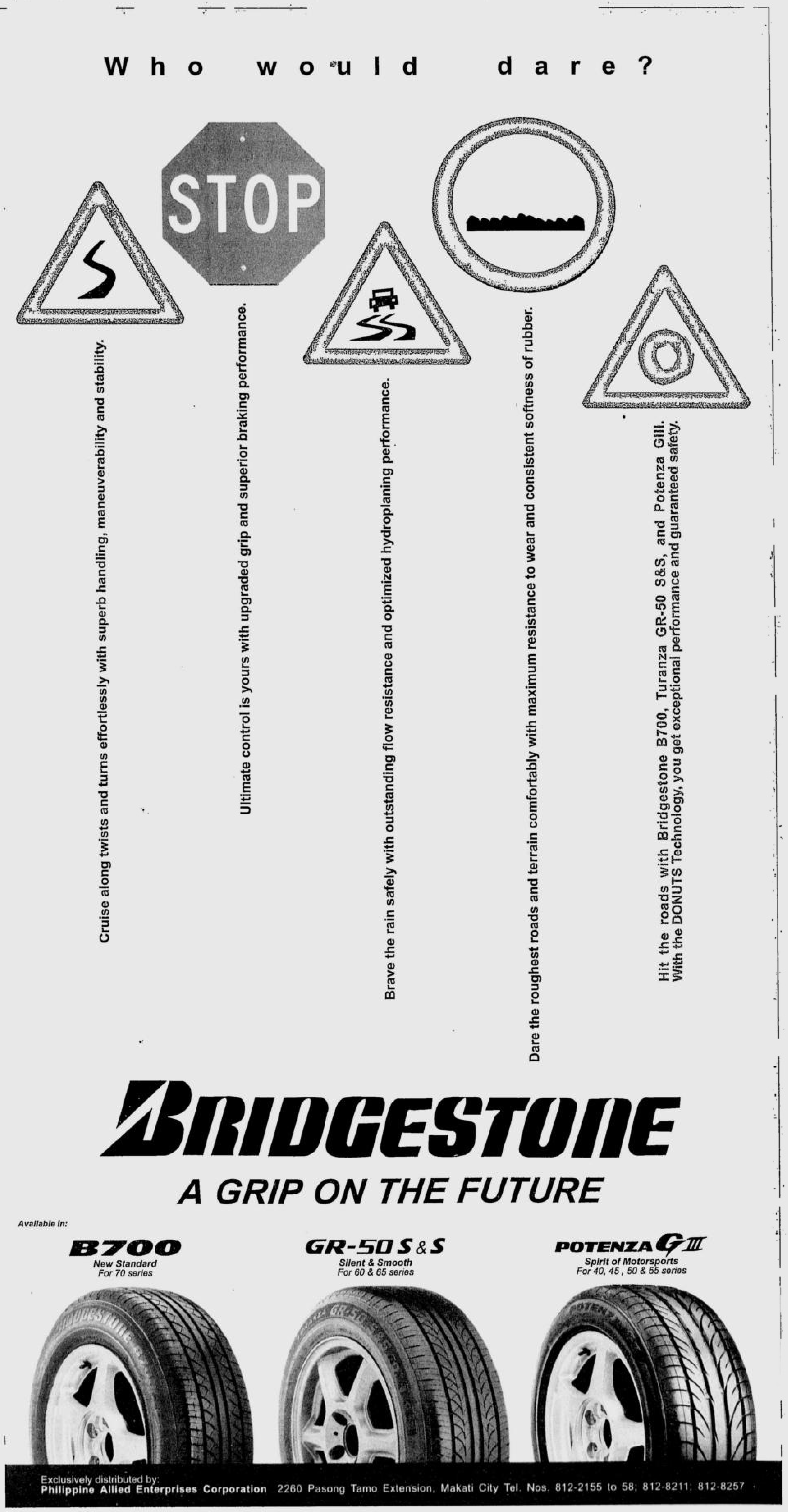
The move enabled Japan to keep pace with the growing Asian trend set by China and India for the adoption of biotechnology-processed plant types.

China accounts for 3 percent of the world's total biotech crops while the Indian government recently approved the entry of biotech cotton.

Thailand and Indonesia are currently undertaking their respective testing of biotech crops in line with urgent government programs to meet rising demand for staple foods while protecting their respective soil and environment.

The Philippine government is also currently testing a biotech corn variety that can resist the deadly Asiatic Corn Borer with little or no pesticide application.

Through biotechnology, certain genes are inserted into plants to give them natural resistance of specific plant pests and diseases.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PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

## NOTICE TO DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED ALL ASIABANK CORPORATION - YOUR COMMUNITY THRIFT BANK

The Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) will start its operations for the servicing of claims for insured deposits in the closed **All AsiaBank Corporation – Your Community Thrift Bank** on **August 27, 2002**.

Depositors are advised to proceed to designated payoff sites on dates indicated below, to file their claims for insured deposits. Claim forms will be issued free of charge. PDIC representatives shall service claims and entertain queries of depositors during office hours, Monday to Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Also, PDIC has designated Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) as its paying agent for the four (4) banking units of All AsiaBank Corporation – Your Community Thrift Bank (AABC). Numbers of approved claims filed with AABC - Digos, Tagum, Koronadal and General Santos City Branches that have been turned over by PDIC representatives to the LBP Servicing Branch shall be posted at the payoff site. Depositors are therefore requested to refer to these posters before proceeding to the LBP servicing branch for payment of claims. Duly processed claims in AABC-San Pedro, Head Office and Buhangin Branch shall be paid by PDIC Disbursing Officers.

| Servicing Dates | Payoff Site | AABC Office/ Branch | LBP Servicing Branch |
|---|---|---|---|
| August 27, 2002 to September 24, 2002 | AABC – San Pedro<br>Head Office<br>San Pedro Street, Davao City | San Pedro, *Head Office* | |
| August 27, 2002 to September 17, 2002 | AABC – Digos Branch<br>Rizal Avenue, Digos<br>Davao del Sur | Digos Branch | LBP - Digos |
| | AABC – Tagum Branch<br>Pagsabangan<br>Pioneer Avenue<br>Tagum City, Davao del Norte | Tagum Branch | LBP - Tagum |
| | AABC – Koronadal Branch<br>Alunan Avenue, Koronadal<br>South Cotabato | Koronadal Branch | LBP - Koronadal (Morales) |
| August 27, 2002 to September 13, 2002 | AABC –<br>General Santos City Branch<br>General Santos City<br>South Cotabato | General Santos City Branch | LBP - General Santos (Hi-way) |
| | AABC – Buhangin Branch<br>Km. 6 corner Carnation Street<br>Diversion Road, Davao City | Buhangin Branch | |

After the said dates, all depositors can file their claims personally at the PDIC office from Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., or by mail addressed to –

**The Manager**
**Claims Processing Department**
**Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation**
**2228 Chino Roces Avenue, 1231 Makati City**

Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to the PDIC representatives when filing their claims for insured deposits:

a. Original evidence of deposit such as Savings Passbook, Certificate of Time Deposit; ATM Card and/or Latest Bank Statement and Unused Checkbooks; and
b. Two (2) latest identification cards/documents (IDs) bearing the depositor's specimen signature.

Other documents may be required by the PDIC representatives in the course of their processing of claims filed.

Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 3591 as amended by R.A. 7400, the prescriptive date (last day) for filing of claims for insured deposits in the closed **All AsiaBank Corp. – Your Community Thrift Bank, Inc.** is on **January 24, 2004**. After **January 24, 2004**, PDIC as insurer, shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the said closed bank.

**PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION**

(PDI – Aug. 25 & 26, 2002)

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## EMBASSY OF JAPAN

## ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING TOURIST AND VISITING RELATIVE VISAS

The new system will be introduced for the convenience of the applicants. Beginning 02 September 2002, individuals applying for TOURIST and VISITING RELATIVE VISAS may do so directly at the designated windows.

This change is only relevant to those individuals applying in Manila.

Accordingly, the DROP BOX SYSTEM will be TERMINATED on **30 August 2002**.

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## Sgt. OSCAR (OCA) M. HERNANDEZ, SR.

of Valenzuela City and
Mojon, Malolos, Bulacan

*who passed away in the Grace of our Lord on August 23, 2002 at the age of 83.*

He is survived by his wife **Josefina**; children and children-in-law **Rolando & Emelie, Oscar Jr. & Lolita, Priscilla & Dick Elefanio, Mercy & Tony Chang, Rudy & Nini, Aurora** and **Carol**; grandchildren and great grandchildren, brothers and sisters, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima Chapel, Valenzuela City.

Interment to be announced later.

## DR. JUAN P. CRISOSTOMO

**of Taytay, Rizal**

*Has serenely joined the Lord on August 21, 2002 in Brentwood, Maryland at the age of 78.*

His children **Lucille & Teofilo Balinghasay, Brenda Mia, Juanchito & Cecilia, Ma. Vivian Bleza, Carlitos & Pia, Genevieve**; and sister **Melania**; grandchildren **Gaillie, Martin, Jayjay, Clarise & Otet, Ruffy, Ginny, Peejo, Valerie, Chriselle, Justin, Veronica, Jesse & Joanne**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains was cremated August 23, 2002.

Interment will be announced later.

In Loving Memory
on the Fifth Death Anniversary of

## ENGR. TITUS CLARIDAD VILLANUEVA, JR.

(20 January 1964 - 26 August 1997)

His founding partners **Engr. Salvador V. Bareng, Engr. Mamerto A. Sindayen**, co-partner **Engr. Oliver P. Masillem** and the entire staff of Ground Specialist, Inc., request all readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass shall be offered at the following churches:

1. Our Lady of Annunciation Parish ........ 6:00 p.m.
   Mindanao Avenue, Tandang Sora, Quezon City
2. Chapel of Holy Sacrifice ........ 12:00 nn
   U.P. Diliman, Quezon City
3. St. Ignatius Cathedral ........ 7:30 a.m.
   Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City
4. Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish ........ 6:00 p.m.
   U.P. Village, Quezon City
5. Mother Mary of Good Counsel ........ 6:30 a.m.
   Marcelo Green Village, Parañaque City
6. Holy Trinity Parish ........ 6:00 p.m.
   Ideal Subdivision, Commonwealth, Quezon City
7. Blessed Sacrament Parish ........ 6:30 p.m.
   Brgy. Talipapa, Quezon City
8. San Nicolas de Tolentino Parish ........ 6:30 a.m.
   Congressional Village, Quezon City
9. San Juan de Nepomuceno Parish ........ 6:30 a.m.
   Sum-ag, Bacolod City
10. Sto. Domingo Parish ........ 6:30 a.m.
    Quezon Avenue, Quezon City

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)
• DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS •
• DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS • FREE OBIT DESIGN •

# CLASSIFIEDS

## PUBLIC APOLOGY

I, WILLIAM LIM, of Angeles City, hereby make public my apology to the owners of the trademark "HANFORD" namely, Te Bi, Hanford Philippines, Inc. and Mansfield International, Inc. for the wrong I have cause them, consisting of the unlawful manufacture and sale of counterfeit Hanford products.

I hereby make a solemn vow and promise to respect the ownership of Te Bi, Hanford Philippines, Inc. over the trademark "HANFORD" by refraining from committing the same criminal act of counterfeiting Hanford products and the sale thereof.

(Sgd.) **WILLIAM LIM**

(PDI - Aug. 26, 2002)

## INQUIRER TRiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

### Tall tale

*Q.* How tall was the tallest man ever lived?

*A.* The tallest man in recorded medical history was Robert Wadlow, who born in Alton, Illinois, in 1918. He was an ordinary baby, tipping the scales at a healthy 8½ lbs. But young Robert began to grow and grow following a double hernia operation when he was two years old. At age of 5, he was 5'4"; at 10 he was 6'5"; at 15, 7'8"; at 18, he was 8'3½", and he still kept growing. This spectacular growth caused Robert to have difficulty with one foot, on which he had to wear a heavy metal brace. Eventually, the brace led to an infection of the ankle. The flu caused by the infection claimed Wadlow's life in Manistee, Michigan, at the age of 22. At his death, Robert Wadlow was 8 ft. 11.1 in.

**Ooopos!** Goliath, the Philistine "giant" killed by David, was originally credited with the rather incredible height of 6 cubits and a span, or 9ft 6 in. Biblical scholars now believe he was merely 4 Greek cubits and a span, or 6 ft 10 in.

***Past Forward.*** This day in 1908: Birth of Rufino J. Santos, first Filipino cardinal, in Guagua, Pampanga. He was appointed archbishop of Manila by Pope Pius XII in 1935; Pope John XXIII elevated him to the rank of cardinal in 1960.

### WORD WATCH

**Propaganda** (prap uh gan duh) : originally *Congregatio de propaganda fide*, a committee of cardinals in charge of the Catholic Church's foreign missions; from the Latin *propagare*, 'to increase or spread.'

PDI – August 26, 2002

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The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER enjoys the biggest circulation and readership among all the major broadsheets in the country. It has a dominant market share of over 55% according to the 2000 Asia Research Organization (ARO) Tri-Media Study.

**National Power Corporation**

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
## AD NO. PD2002-21

Opening Date : September 10, 2002 - 9:00 AM
E-Bidding Date : September 17, 2002 - 9:00 AM

**2002-21-01 RINGS, Gold (14/18 K) with NPC Logo, with and without stones**

Interested parties are invited to apply for eligibility and to submit sealed bids on the above to be opened publicly at the Sampaguita Room, Ground Floor, Building 2, NPC-OBC, Quezon Avenue corner Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Eligibility forms and bidding documents are available on **August 23, 2002** upon payment of P50.00 per schedule which is non-refundable and presentation of TIN/supplier's number (DCE).

Issuance of eligibility forms and bidding documents, mornings only, 8:30 to 11:30 AM. For inquiries, please call no. 921-2574. Last day of issuance of bidding documents, September 4, 2002.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation.

**MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT**
NPC-OBC (Head Office)
Diliman, Quezon City

(PDI – Aug. 23 & 26, 2002)

**PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**
Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Tel. No. 893-1320 Local 5131 Fax 840-1461

## INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION/ELIGIBILITY AND BIDDING

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites Contractors classified by and registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) as IAC Medium Sub-Category B in General Engineering to apply for pre-qualification/eligibility and if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the project:

**CONSTRUCTION of ROCKFALL PIPE SHELTER for MINDANAO GEOTHERMAL PRODUCTION FIELD (MGPF)**
**under Bid/Project No. EDC 02-091**

The work calls for the supply of labor, supervision, materials, equipment, tools, consumables, and other services necessary for the construction of concrete stone masonry walls / rockfall pipe shelters and other works called for at PNOC-EDC's project site at MGPF, Ilomavis, Kidapawan, North Cotabato.

The pre-qualification/eligibility forms may be secured from the Contracts Administration Group (c/o Raymond Sison) starting **August 26, 2002, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Hundred Pesos (PHP100.00).

The pre-qualification/eligibility documents must be submitted to the Contracts Administration Group not later than 5:00 p.m. of **September 9, 2002**.

Bid documents shall be issued to eligible Contractors starting **September 24, 2002** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Thousand Pesos (PHP1,000.00).

The pre-bid conference and site inspection shall be announced on a later date.

Sealed bids in two (2) sets shall be received by the Contracts Administration Group at the above address not later than **2:00 p.m. of October 24, 2002** and then to be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

PNOC-EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to PNOC-EDC.

(Sgd.) **ESTER R. GUERZON**
*Manager, Operations Services Division*

(PDI - Aug. 26, 2002)

## NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Loyola
LOYOLA PLANS CONSOLIDATED INC

Notice is hereby given to the public that, with the consolidation of Loyola Plans, Inc. (LPI) and Loyola Education System, Inc. (LESI) into **LOYOLA PLANS CONSOLIDATED, INC.**, effective September 1, 2002. LOYOLA PLANS CONSOLIDATED, INC. will not honor as genuine, valid, or binding all receipts, application forms, and all other accountable forms of LPI and LESI that do not bear the seal and/or logo of LOYOLA PLANS CONSOLIDATED, INC.

Republic of the Philippines
**Professional Regulation Commission**
Manila

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY TO BID

The Professional Regulation Commission hereby invites interested suppliers to pre-qualify and to submit sealed bids for the printing and supply of OMR ID/ANSWER SHEETS with the quantity of 390,000 sets for 4th Quarter of Year 2002 (54,000 sets) and Year 2003 requirements (330,000 sets) with buffer stocks of 6,000 sets with a total of 390,000 sets for both Central and Regional Offices.

The following legal documents must be submitted on or before **September 9, 2002** at **10:00 a.m.** to the BAC Secretary Administrative Office, Ground Floor, PRC Compound:

1. Company Profile
2. SEC/DTI Registration
3. Business Permit 2002
4. VAT Registration
5. DTI Accreditation Certification
6. "NO BLACKLIST" Certificate (Notarized)
7. Last 2-years Audited Financial Statements (Notarized & with BIR receiving mark)
8. List of clients/references

Eligible bidders are required to attend the Pre-Bid Conference at 10:00 a.m. on **September 9, 2002** at PRC Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Main Building. Sample forms can be secured during the meeting. Technical samples for the test-run shall not bear security marks.

Submission and opening of bids by notified eligible bidders, shall be as follows:

| ITEMS | SUBMISSION OF SAMPLES (for test-run) | SUBMISSION & OPENING OF | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | TECHNICAL BID | FINANCIAL BID |
| OMR ID/ ANSWER SHEETS | Sept. 16, 2002 10:00 AM | Sept. 18, 2002 10:00 AM | Sept. 18, 2002 10:00 AM |

at PRC Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Main Building.

The two (2) envelopes system showing the technical and financial bids shall be adopted in the bidding. The 1st envelope shall contain Technical Bid showing: (a) Bid Security; (b) Authority of Signatory; (c) Credit Line/Deposit Certification. The 2nd envelope to contain Financial Bid showing: Bid Offer or Bid Price, Bidder's bond must be equivalent to 2.5% of the total bid offer in the form of Manager's Check or GSIS bond.

The PRC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any defect or informality therein, and to accept the offer most advantageous to the government. It likewise assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The Commission also reserves the right to confiscate the bid bond should the winning bidder refuse to accept the contract and award instead the bid to the second lowest bidder.

(Sgd.) **TEOFILO GAIUS M. SISON, JR.**
*Chairman, BAC*

(PDI - Aug. 26, 2002)

## NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE is hereby given that the following **LIBERTY FLOUR MILLS, INC.** stock certificates have been declared lost:

| Stock Certificate No. | No. of Shares |
|---|---|
| 8846 | 141,317 |
| 8847 | 15,737 |
| 9285 | 33,314 |
| 9738 | 47,592 |
| 10282 | 95,184 |
| 10782 | 47,591 |
| 11398 | 142,775 |
| 12128 | 52,351 |
| 12786 | 115,172 |
| 13645 | 70,435 |

pursuant to an affidavit of lost submitted by the registered owner of the above-mentioned stock certificates, EKI Tourist Development Corporation, dated 20 June 2002.

By:

**THE CORPORATE SECRETARY**
Liberty Flour Mills, Inc.

(PDI - Aug 26 Sept 2 & 9, 2002)

# INFOTECH

*Editor* **Leo Magno**

# New Microsoft chief wants to develop RP software mart

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

HOU

HOPING to change some local perceptions that Microsoft only sells packaged software, the newly appointed head of the software giant's Philippine subsidiary wants to start with helping local independent software vendors (ISVs) develop business applications using Microsoft software that will fit the requirements of small- to medium-sized firms.

Citing his experience in Taiwan, Kevin Hou said that Microsoft's ISV program has been successful in that country, and thus it makes sense for him to replicate the business model in the Philippines.

Hou noted that the Philippines is generally composed of small and medium organizations which cannot afford to buy large-scale enterprise software.

"We want to help local ISVs to close business with clients using resources of Microsoft. I think this is a win-win situation for our ISV partners and Microsoft," Hou said.

Hou's appointment as new managing director of Microsoft Philippines happened as Microsoft Great Plains merged with Navision Software A/S, a Denmark-based business solutions company which Microsoft acquired recently.

The merged company is now called Microsoft Business Solutions that will offer as well as develop business software applications for small and midsize companies.

Asked how the merger would impact Microsoft Philippines' business and operations, Hou said that both companies are independent of each other.

Under the merger agreement, MBS would continue to develop, market and support Navision's business applications.

Born and educated in Taiwan, Hou has been working with the IT industry since 1989. Before his appointment to the Philippine subsidiary, he was senior director of the Enterprise Partner Group for Microsoft Taiwan.

He was reportedly instrumental in the Taiwan subsidiary's strong performance last fiscal year where it grew a record 32 percent in the corporate space amid shrinking PC shipments in the country.

"I'm not here to change everything that the previous heads of Microsoft Philippines have already accomplished," Hou said when asked about his plans for the local subsidiary.

He is, however, a strong believer of Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer's recent battle cry of making their customers realize their potential.

"I believe our customers want to hear more about business so we will talk about the business value we can provide instead of our products," Hou said.

How does he react to the growing movement of open source software in the Philippines?

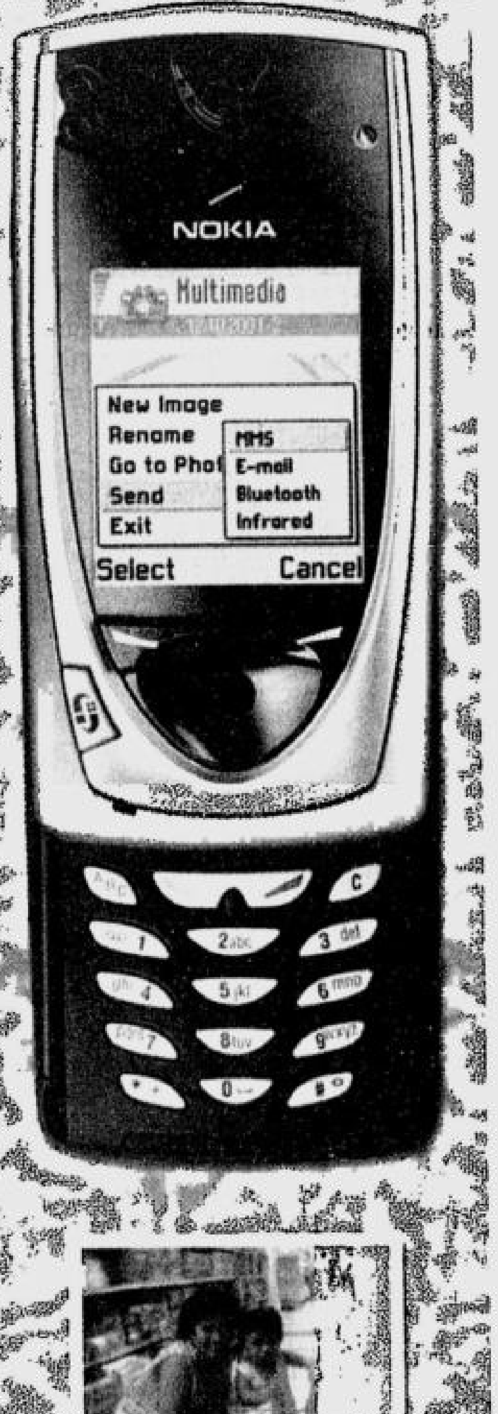
"We've been in this market for seven years," he replied.

In other words, Hou does not see the point in arguing with the local Microsoft subsidiary's success despite the advancement of open source software and new competition. Microsoft Philippines has been experiencing an average of 20-percent growth for the past seven years despite the economic downtrend.

Under his leadership, Hou also wants to focus on establishing "best practices," which could serve as an example for other companies planning to develop systems using Microsoft's software.

"We want to develop best practices so that we could show them to our customers," Hou said.

Microsoft Philippines currently employs more than 40 people, but Hou disclosed that he would be hiring more people to head its local marketing and sales team within the year. By yearend, employees of the local subsidiary will total 50, he noted.



## NOKIA 7650

# A picture is worth 1,000 SMS messages

By Leo Magno

WHEN Nokia soft-launched the 7650 in Hong Kong November last year, we were able to sample a prototype of the world's first GSM phone with a built-in camera.

Using the 7650, my picture was taken at the press launch, then sent via MMS (multimedia messaging service) wirelessly over a GPRS (general packet radio system) phone network in Hong Kong to a waiting PC at the launch venue. Five minutes and five oysters later, the e-mail was received with my photo attached to it.

Back then it was a fantastic feature.

Eight months later in July, the 7650 was made available in the Philippines. Again we were able to sample it more extensively, and all of a sudden what was fantastic eight months ago became a humdrum experience overnight. Pictures were being taken and sent to e-mail addresses on the fly. Images of family and friends in the Philippines were immediately sent to relatives abroad. All because of this phone and the rollout of Globe and Smart's GPRS services. Thanks also to Globe and Smart for not immediately figuring out how to charge their GPRS subscribers.

Nokia succeeded in going beyond the technical aspects of cellular phones and down to where it matters and where money can be made. They bet their bucks big on person-to-person communications, a way of communicating which is more personal. It was an appeal to the emotions, and it worked well. Who could resist taking a picture of your newborn child and sending it to relatives in the United States? Or a picture of Joey Marquez and Kris Aquino in some secret rendezvous? At the end of the day, the 7650 hit the nail at the heart of consumers, something the Sony Ericsson T68i will have a hard time doing.

With the 7650, the market has finally seen the capabilities of MMS. For Smart and Globe, they have finally seen a potential money-making MMS killer app.

While tinkering around with the 7650 and sending images to the United States, I took for granted that the service was still free, but a Nokia executive from Finland told me recently that for MMS services to be commercially viable, operators would have to charge at least four times the cost of SMS or text, or at least P10 per pop.

So, marketing wise Nokia has a hit, and when unit prices go down and GPRS connection fees become affordable, we can expect people to be sending images back and forth wirelessly. But not at the moment. While GPRS is still free in the Philippines, the 7650 is not. It costs more than P30,000, or down to P20,000 if you get it with a high subscription plan. That's enough for you to buy a powerful PC.

The 7650 runs the Symbian OS, has third-party application support and full Java support. Interestingly, the other MMS phone in the market, the Sony Ericsson T68i, has pledged support for the Microsoft Smart Phone OS, and will be at loggerheads with other phones like the 7650. Curiously, the main menu of the 7650 reminds me of the old Windows 3.1 interface, minus the blue screens of death.

The dual-band 7650, being the first product in the imaging phones category of Nokia, is icon-based, necessitating the use of a joystick with 5-way navigation (left, right, up, down and click). The 7650 naturally has huge storage, with 5Mb of space which the pictures share with the contact database, the graphical OS and other apps. The image storage is about 3.6Mb. Depending on the image quality (which you set on "High," "Normal" or "Basic"), the phone can store more than 100 images or more than three rolls of film. Image capture is at 640x480 VGA resolution, and the big phone display (176x208 pixels, 35x41mm) is used as a viewfinder.

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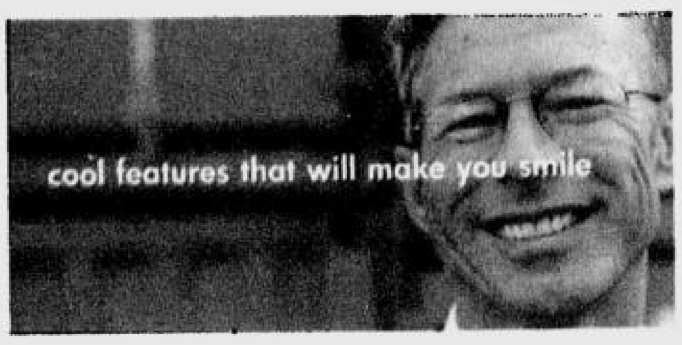
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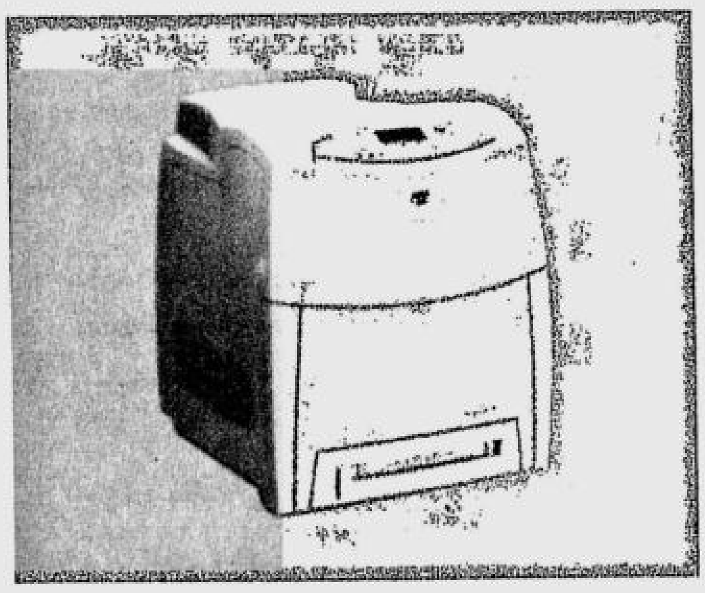

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# INFOTECH

Editor **Leo Magno**

# New Microsoft chief wants to develop RP software mart

**By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva**

HOPING to change some local perceptions that Microsoft only sells packaged software, the newly appointed head of the software giant's Philippine subsidiary wants to start with helping local independent software vendors (ISVs) develop business applications using Microsoft software that will fit the requirements of small- to medium-sized firms.

Citing his experience in Taiwan, Kevin Hou said that Microsoft's ISV program has been successful in that country, and thus it makes sense for him to replicate the business model in the Philippines.

Hou noted that the Philippines is generally composed of small and medium organizations which cannot afford to buy large-scale enterprise software.

"We want to help local ISVs to close business with clients using resources of Microsoft. I think this is a win-win situation for our ISV partners and Microsoft," Hou said.

HOU

Hou's appointment as new managing director of Microsoft Philippines happened as Microsoft Great Plains merged with Navision Software A/S, a Denmark-based business solutions company which Microsoft acquired recently.

The merged company is now called Microsoft Business Solutions that will offer as well as develop business software applications for small and midsize companies.

Asked how the merger would impact Microsoft Philippines' business and operations, Hou said that both companies are independent of each other.

Under the merger agreement, MBS would continue to develop, market and support Navision's business applications.

Born and educated in Taiwan, Hou has been working with the IT industry since 1989. Before his appointment to the Philippine subsidiary, he was senior director of the Enterprise Partner Group for Microsoft Taiwan.

He was reportedly instrumental in the Taiwan subsidiary's strong performance last fiscal year where it grew a record 32 percent in the corporate space amid shrinking PC shipments in the country.

"I'm not here to change everything that the previous heads of Microsoft Philippines have already accomplished," Hou said when asked about his plans for the local subsidiary.

He is, however, a strong believer of Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer's recent battle cry of making their customers realize their potential.

"I believe our customers want to hear more about business so we will talk about the business value we can provide instead of our products," Hou said.

How does he react to the growing movement of open source software in the Philippines?

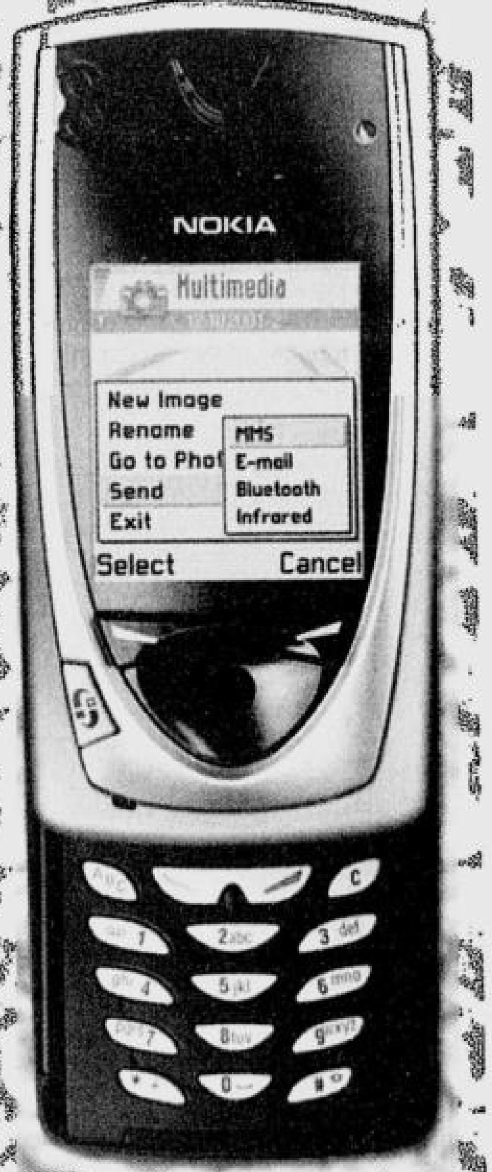
"We've been in this market for seven years," he replied.

In other words, Hou does not see the point in arguing with the local Microsoft subsidiary's success despite the advancement of open source software and new competition. Microsoft Philippines has been experiencing an average of 20-percent growth for the past seven years despite the economic downtrend.

Under his leadership, Hou also wants to focus on establishing "best practices," which could serve as an example for other companies planning to develop systems using Microsoft's software.

"We want to develop best practices so that we could show them to our customers," Hou said.

Microsoft Philippines currently employs more than 40 people, but Hou disclosed that he would be hiring more people to head its local marketing and sales team within the year. By yearend, employees of the local subsidiary will total 50, he noted.



## NOKIA 7650

# A picture is worth 1,000 SMS messages

**By Leo Magno**

WHEN Nokia soft-launched the 7650 in Hong Kong November last year, we were able to sample a prototype of the world's first GSM phone with a built-in camera.

Using the 7650, my picture was taken at the press launch, then sent via MMS (multimedia messaging service) wirelessly over a GPRS (general packet radio system) phone network in Hong Kong to a waiting PC at the launch venue. Five minutes and five oysters later, the e-mail was received with my photo attached to it.

Back then it was a fantastic feature.

Eight months later in July, the 7650 was made available in the Philippines. Again we were able to sample it more extensively, and all of a sudden what was fantastic eight months ago became a humdrum experience overnight. Pictures were being taken and sent to e-mail addresses on the fly. Images of family and friends in the Philippines were immediately sent to relatives abroad. All because of this phone and the rollout of Globe and Smart's GPRS services. Thanks also to Globe and Smart for not immediately figuring out how to charge their GPRS subscribers.

Nokia succeeded in going beyond the technical aspects of cellular phones and down to where it matters and where money can be made. They bet their bucks big on person-to-person communications, a way of communicating which is more personal. It was an appeal to the emotions, and it worked well. Who could resist taking a picture of your newborn child and sending it to relatives in the United States? Or a picture of Joey Marquez and Kris Aquino in some secret rendezvous? At the end of the day, the 7650 hit the nail at the heart of consumers, something the Sony Ericsson T68i will have a hard time doing.

With the 7650, the market has finally seen the capabilities of MMS. For Smart and Globe, they have finally seen a potential money-making MMS killer app.

While tinkering around with the 7650 and sending images to the United States, I took for granted that the service was still free, but a Nokia executive from Finland told me recently that for MMS services to be commercially viable, operators would have to charge at least four times the cost of SMS or text, or at least P10 per pop.

So, marketing wise Nokia has a hit, and when unit prices go down and GPRS connection fees become affordable, we can expect people to be sending images back and forth wirelessly. But not at the moment. While GPRS is still free in the Philippines, the 7650 is not. It costs more than P30,000, or down to P20,000 if you get it with a high subscription plan. That's enough for you to buy a powerful PC.

The 7650 runs the Symbian OS, has third-party application support and full Java support. Interestingly, the other MMS phone in the market, the Sony Ericsson T68i, has pledged support for the Microsoft Smart Phone OS, and will be at loggerheads with other phones like the 7650. Curiously, the main menu of the 7650 reminds me of the old Windows 3.1 interface, minus the blue screens of death.

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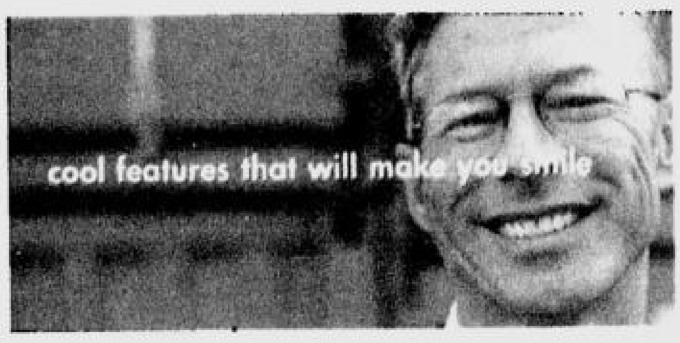
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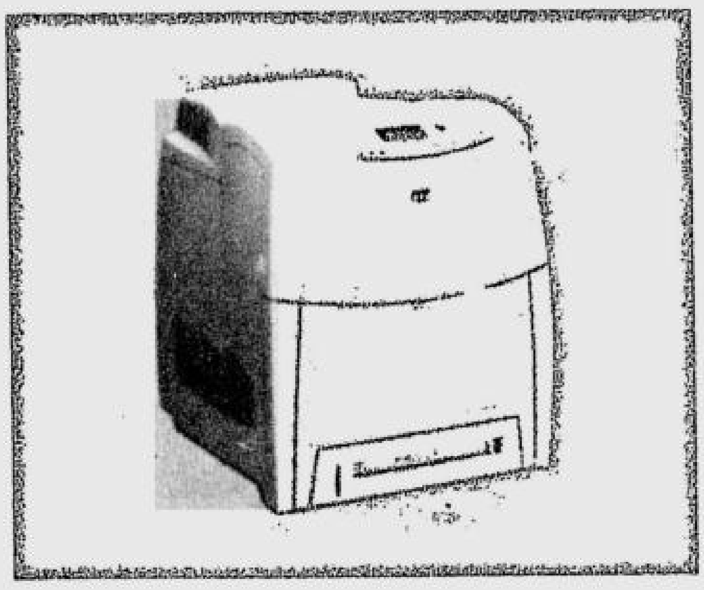

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# Apple Computer on collision course with Sun, HP and IBM in RP server market

By Joel D. Pinaroc

FOLLOWING announcements of the availability of its first-ever high-end computer server product line, Apple Computer is venturing into the Philippine server market, eyeing local enterprise and the government for its server product line.

Apple executives said this is the first time that the company, long known as a manufacturer of high-performance personal computers and laptops, is joining the fray in the local server market, currently dominated by such "traditional" server companies such as Sun, Dell, HP-Compaq and IBM.

And as a newbie in the server business, Apple is expected to implement a marketing strategy aimed at making the company go beyond its traditional core competencies, and challenge the acknowledged market leaders head on.

"We know that these companies (Dell, HP and IBM) have been in the business for so long now. We plan to implement strategies that will allow our prospective clients to benefit from the price-for-performance quality that Apple is known for," said Albert Lam, managing director for Apple, South Asia.

Lam said the company is looking at appointing local distributors that will be tasked to market the Xserver, Apple's first-ever, rack-mountable computer server.

The executive disclosed that Apple will be eyeing partners that "have the necessary experience" in servicing and marketing servers in the Philippines. Apple has yet to name these distributors.

The Xserver series is the first server product line from Apple. Company executives said the product's specifications—from the dual or single 1-GHz G4 processor to support for open source applications and Windows-based nodes—make it a formidable challenger in the high-end server category.

Along with the high-end processor, the Xserver also comes with up to 480 Gb of storage, the most in its class, executives claim. Further, the Xserver uses the Mac OS X Server, Apple's Unix-based operating system. This is why Apple claims it won't crash.

# Standing ovation for Nintendo . . .

From page B17

control another character until you reach the final, unwritten chapter which Alex will play in a magnificent finale.

The ancients include the red Chattur'gha, the green Xel'lotath and the blue Ulyaoth. Another one, Mantorok the purple, is thrown in as a wild card for the game. These ancients were the original inhabitants of Earth, an ancient species unbounded by physics or nature, purpose or ethic. They have lain dormant for eons, and one of them—the master of Pious Augustus—is waiting for the right time to resurface and reclaim the Earth. That correct timing—the alignment of the planets—was in the year 2000 (remember, this game was under development since 1998, so the developers were riding on that "new millennium" apocalypse and Y2K scenario). Play the game on the three alignments and you'll get a bonus at the end, plus a different ending (I've finished it twice already on the Xel'lotath and the Ulyaoth paths. One more to go).

The storyline is the focal point of this game. While the controlling idea of the story is not new, it lends grandness to the game. Spanning across two millennia, going to underground cities and hidden temples—this game is an epic. No other game will make you play a Gladius-wielding centurion in ancient Persia in 26 B.C.; a Dam Rao-wielding Persian romantic in the year 565 A.D.; a page to the court of Charlemagne in ancient France in the year 814 A.D., equipped with a Scramasax; a Cambodian dancer with a poison blowdart in the court of Suryavarman II in the year 1150 A.D.; a saber-wielding doctor in Rhode Island in 1760 A.D.; a .303 rifle-shooting journalist during the First World War; an assault rifle-toting firefighter during the US-Iraq war in 1991 and more.

If you get the feeling that the weapons, architecture and the clothing of the characters are authentic, that's because they are. Silicon Knights painstakingly researched weapons, clothes, uniforms, architecture and art to make sure all these elements are as historically accurate as possible. Such commitment to realism makes the game even more engrossing and frightening. Silicon Knights researched this game very well to give it detail unsurpassed by any I've seen so far. It also makes the game more immersive and gripping. It doesn't let you go, and there were times when I was literally at the edge of my seat. This is a sign that you are interacting with the game, and that the developers have done a superb job.

Eternal Darkness truly deserves a standing ovation. This dark, gripping and mature game which draws its inspiration partly from Edgar Allan Poe and the cinematic (and insane) effects from the directorial genius of Alfred Hitchcock will keep you up for hours at night. Filled with many impressive cutaway scenes that tell the story effectively, this game is like an epic suspense thriller wherein you play the many different characters therein.

In summary, Eternal Darkness is a solid title for Nintendo. This is one of the most well-conceptualized and most well-crafted games you'll see out there. This title boosts Nintendo's reputation for having games of a consistently high level of quality.

Bravo, people! Bravo!

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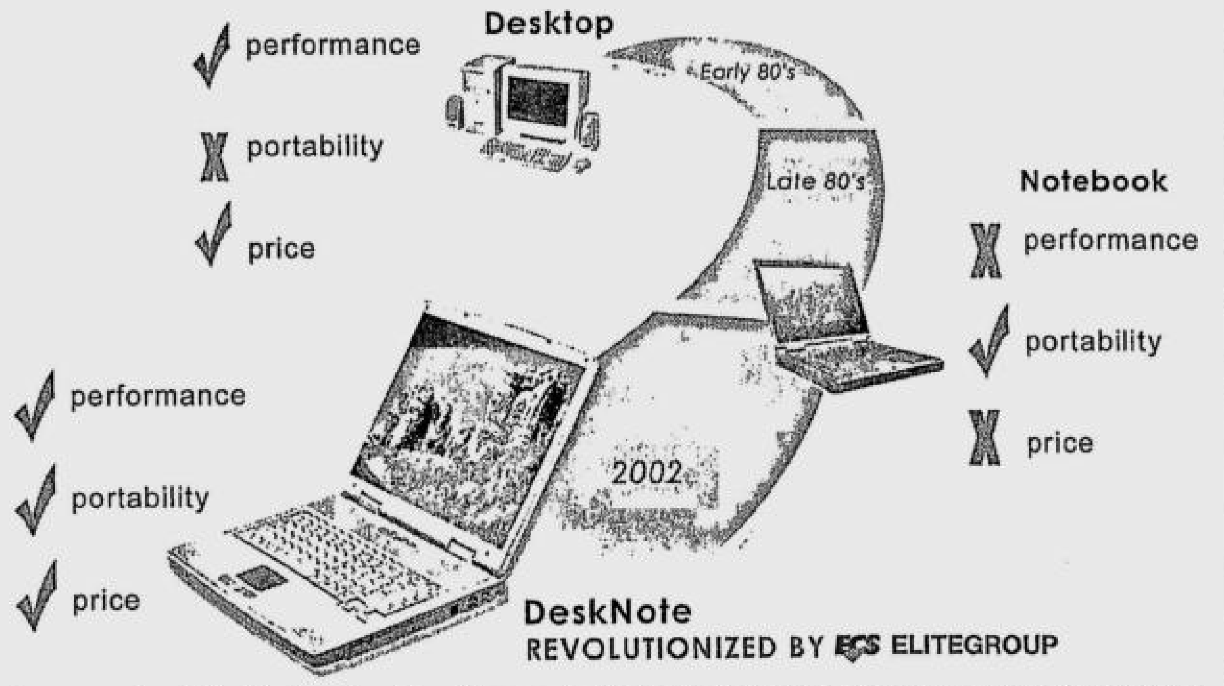

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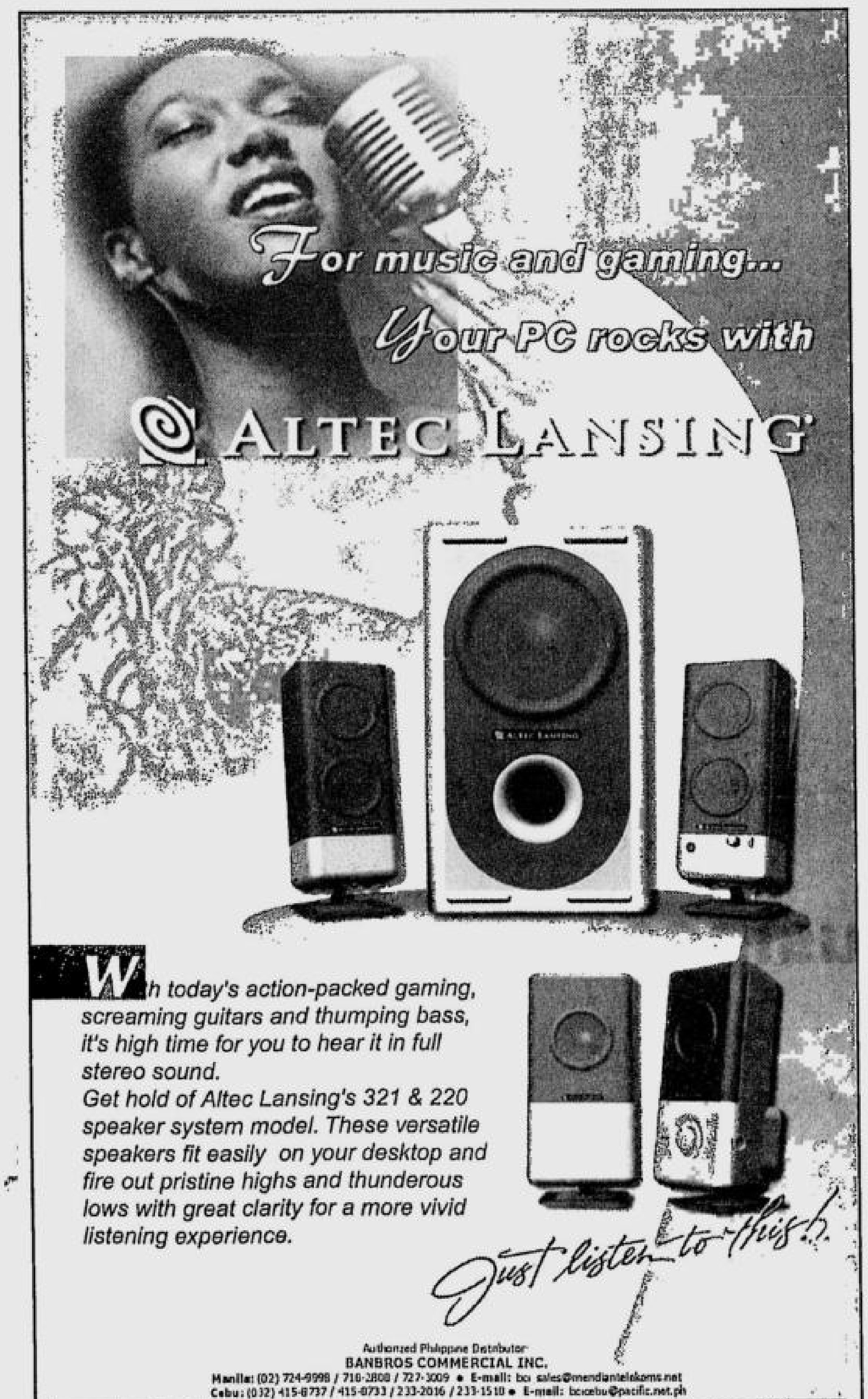

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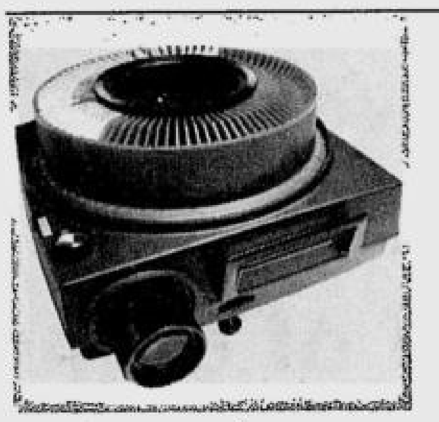

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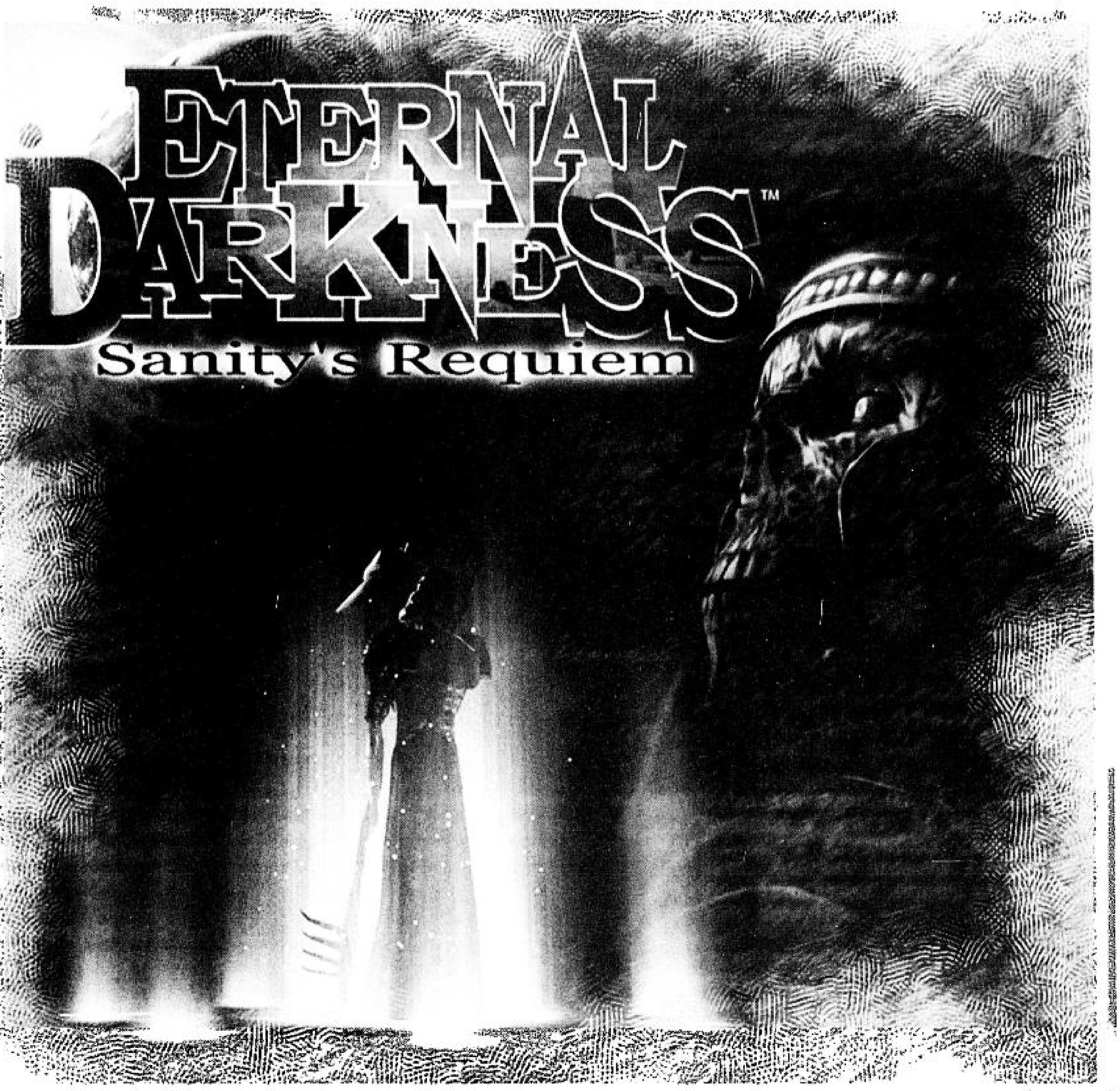
# Standing ovation for Nintendo

**By Leo Magno**



I WAS at the last chapter of the game, having spent more than a total of 30 hours on the couch for days on end, and I was finally going toe-to-toe with Pious Augustus. The system asked me if I wanted to save, a sign that this was, indeed, the climax. Naturally I clicked on "Yes," but instead of the usual "Saving Game, operation in progress" message, I instead got: "Deleting all of your saved games. Please do not touch the power button or the memory card."

Frantically I pressed the "Back" button. Nothing happened, so in panic I clicked and pressed on everything on the controller. And then a new message flashed onscreen: "You have successfully deleted all of your saved games."

At 5 in the morning, my neighbors awoke to an anguished scream of "Noooooo!" as I closed my eyes and clutched the controller like a boy would embrace his beloved dying dog. With eyes still closed, I suddenly heard Alex Roivas' voice saying: "This . . . really . . . isn't happening!" And then the game was back to normal.

What was heard next in our den was the biggest sigh of relief in history.

This is just a sample of the unique "insanity effect" of Eternal Darkness, the game developed by Silicon Knights and co-produced by Shigeru Miyamoto exclusively for the Nintendo GameCube. Kudos go to the Nintendo team and the Canadians of Silicon Knights for coming up with this masterpiece. The game was directed by Dennis Dyack, but gameplay direction was done by Tatsuya Hishida and Hiro Yamada. With Nintendo and Miyamoto as executive producers, I had no doubt this game would be good.

But what was all that insanity effect I was telling you about? If you don't want spoilers, skip the next three paragraphs.

The insanity effect is a unique part of the gameplay of Eternal Darkness wherein your character's sanity dips whenever he or she encounters one of the many monstrosities in the game. Aside from a red health meter and a blue magic meter, the game has a green insanity meter which—when unattended and goes down to critical levels—makes the character behave differently and "see" and "hear" weird things. The player, in turn, also sees these weird things his or her character is experiencing. These range from strange voices to ringing telephones, whispers and screams from nowhere, bleeding walls, hallucinations and statue's heads following your every move.

Because the character is going insane, the player is led to believe that something is happening to the character which would later on prove to be a mere hallucination. Examples are characters shrinking or growing, characters sinking through the floor or the character's head and limbs falling off while running. After a while, things would suddenly go back to normal after a white flash across the screen, and the character would mutter: "This . . . can't . . . be . . . happening!"

The game itself also plays around with the sanity of the player. Like the example I wrote at the start of this article, the game makes you believe that the GameCube was malfunctioning. These range from the volume level of the TV suddenly going out, the "Mute" becoming activated all of a sudden, camera angles tilting, flies appearing on your TV screen, that lousy "Deleting all saved games" message, and an error screen asking you to replace the Eternal Darkness disc because it's either dirty or damaged (this one really got me because I have never seen such an error on a GameCube—only on the Xbox which hangs often).

**We review this game on the GameCube**

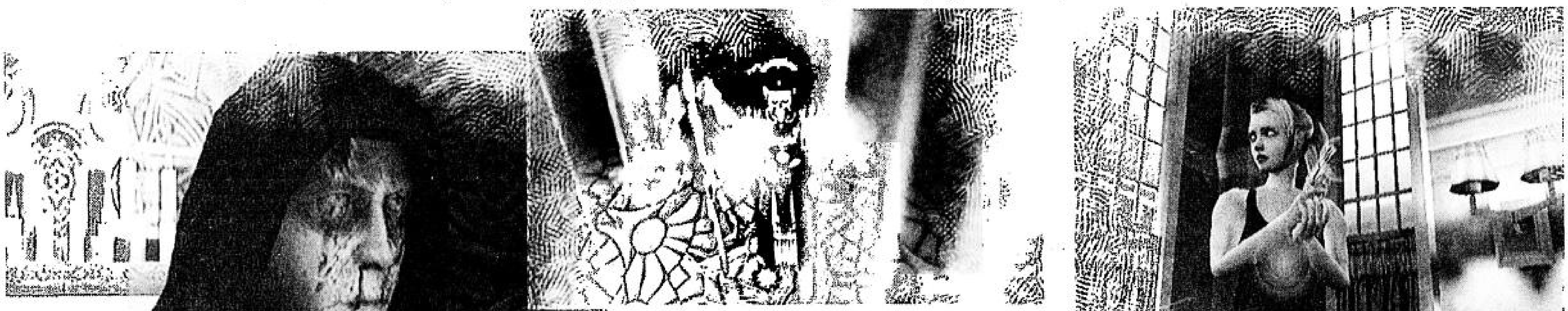
Eternal Darkness is fully 3D and is impressive graphically. It has an advanced, dynamic camera system that zooms in and out and pans at the precise spot. It's got the works: bump-mapping, radiosity light lamps, ray-traced light maps that are made evident when sunlight shines through windows, and volumetric fogging that contribute to fluid in-game motion running at 24-bit color and 60 frames per second. Some characters like Pious and Alex, however, have a weird way of running.

Players who expect to get right into the heart of the action in Eternal Darkness will be disappointed. This game is deep, engaging and gratifying for those who have the patience to spend hours of play (I spent more than 30 hours all in all, including repeated stages where my character died, but the game clock was at 22 hours).

Eternal Darkness was four years in the making. It was originally conceived for the Nintendo 64 but moved on to the GameCube. But the perseverance of the developers showed in the game. It has refined controls, excellent soundtrack, superb voice acting, eerie background music, a great combat system where you can target a specific part of an enemy which you want to dismember, and a beautifully implemented magic system. After about five hours of gameplay I was already reciting arcane stuff like "Xel'lotath! Anterbok! Redgormor! Pargon! Pargon!" and was happy to see the magic work.

You get to play not one but 12 characters—ordinary people who are made to face demons; unfortunately you'll discover that some of them are either fat or old and slow. You start in the year 2000 in Rhode Island as Alexandra Roivas, a graduate student of mathematics and abstract theory. Alex gets a hold of the Tome of Eternal Darkness, where she reads of the efforts of the human race to try to destroy the ancients. This is where you play different characters through time. As Alex reads the Tome of Eternal Darkness, a new chapter in history unfolds, and for each chapter you

STANDING/B15


This latest game produced by Nintendo and developed by Silicon Knights is a solid title for the GameCube, boosting its reputation for having high-quality games.

# A picture is worth 1,000 SMS . . .

From page B14

huge by today's standards. When placed side-by-side with tiny phones, the 7650 would stick out like Michael Jackson in a Boy Scout parade of all-black, 10-year-old boys. But it's still comfortable enough to fit in your hand. It weighs 154 grams, is 114 x 56 x 26 mm big, has 2 to 4 hours of talk time, up to six days battery life, and can be charged with any of your recent Nokia cell phone chargers.

PC connectivity, however, can be a pain. The 7650 has no cable option to any peripherals. It is a phone which sticks to its description as a "wireless" device. If you want to download data from the PC to the 7650 or vice versa, you have to use Bluetooth, infrared or cellular e-mail. With this, one can send/receive pictures, business cards and play games with an opponent wirelessly. However, I had a problem sending images via Bluetooth to my Philips Fisio 820. The two phones can pair with each other, but somehow the sending always fails.

You can use the 7650 as an e-mail device. I tried this with Jason Paredes—a friend ,in New York—and it worked fine sending images and text. Problem is, making long replies via the phone's keypad can give you arthritis, but receiving long messages is cool. One curious thing happened, though, when I sent a picture to Jason. He said Hotmail blocked an image I sent him because it had a virus. Hmmm. That was just a JPEG file (captured and stored inside the phone), with a small note. Did the virus originate from the 7650 which uses the Symbian OS, a platform not popular for viruses? Or was the MMS server which stored and forwarded my e-mail to Jason infected?

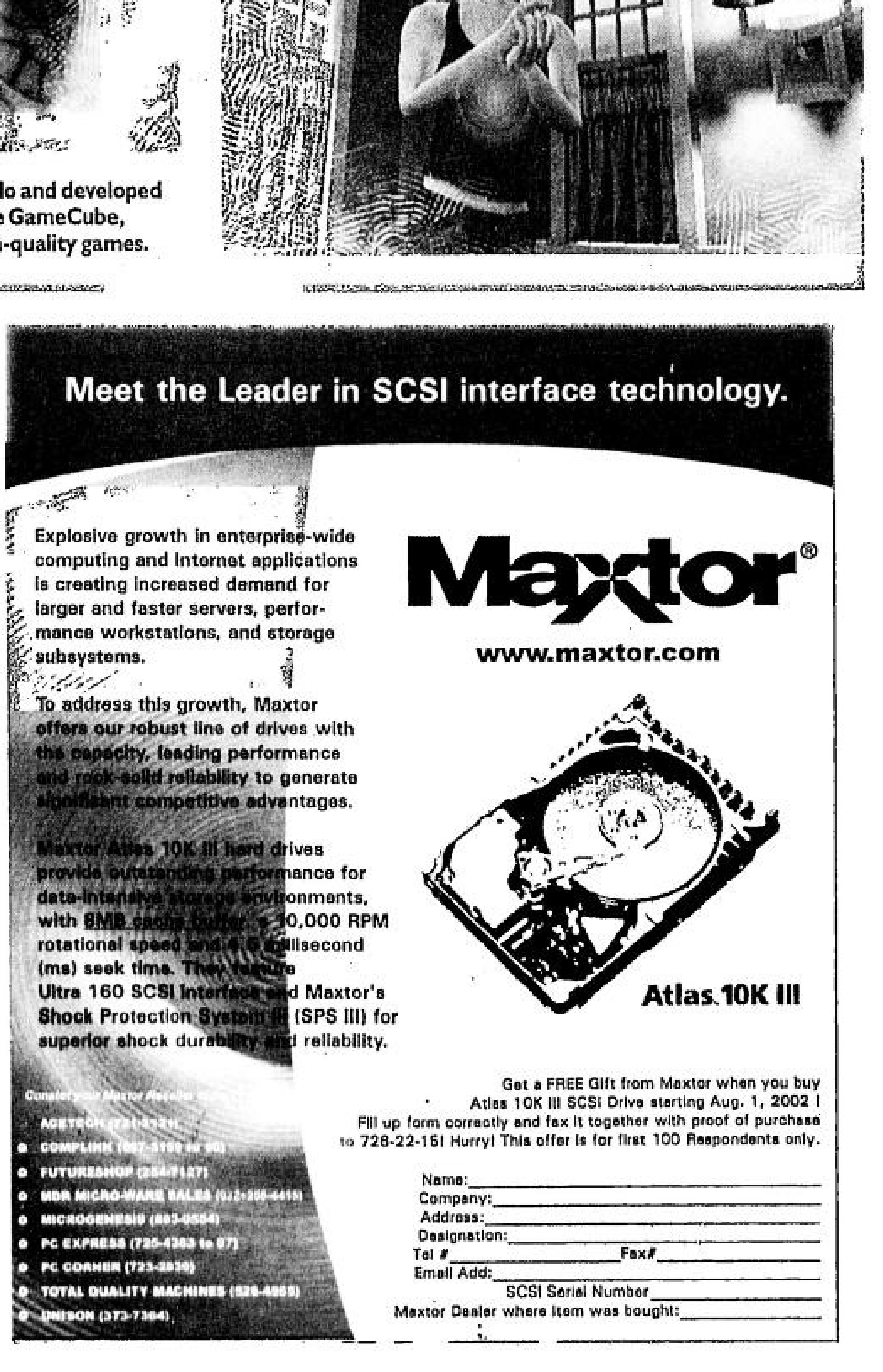
The time spent for sending photos vary. It usually takes less than a minute (pictures captured using the 7650 are in JPEG format, and range anywhere from 8Kb to 15Kb, depending on the image quality you select). You can send it using various e-mail protocols (SMTP, POP3, IMAP4) and the speed would also depend on the network (up to 40.2 kilobits per second in GPRS networks). Note though, that Hotmail, being a Microsoft service, converts your JPEG images from the 7650 into Microsoft-supported BMP (bitmap) files.

All in all, the Nokia 7650 is a good phone to have if you don't mind being set back P30,000. But after the novelty of sending images back and forth wirelessly begins to wear off, you'd be left with storing pictures for your own purposes. Pretty soon—out of boredom more than anything else—you'll find pornographic material being sent to and from the MMS servers of Globe and Smart. This would make the technology counterproductive. Imagine what would have happened if GPRS were already available when Pamela Anderson and Tommy Lee were still honeymooning, and they had a 7650 with them.

This poses the problem of network traffic and communications etiquette. There will always be inconsiderate people who will flood the network with bandwidth-hogging data whether or not the recipient appreciates the gesture. And you thought 10 million text messages a day causes network traffic? Wait till MMS becomes cheap. Smart and Globe will have another reason to charge higher fees due to infrastructure upgrades.

In summary, the phone has a big potential in countries going crazy over personal communications like the Philippines. The question is now in the ballpark of Smart and Globe, who are no doubt monitoring the popularity of MMS use and the market acceptance of MMS phones like the Sony Ericsson T68i and the Nokia 7650. But even if local operators jack up MMS connection fees, chances are Filipinos would still bite the service. There will be an initial uproar from consumer groups and rich, crazy socialites who pretend to be "pro-*masa*" and pretend to be consumer champions, but in the end the emotional Filipino will succumb to the temptation.

In the end, resistance will be futile. All of us will be assimilated by the wireless multimedia overlord.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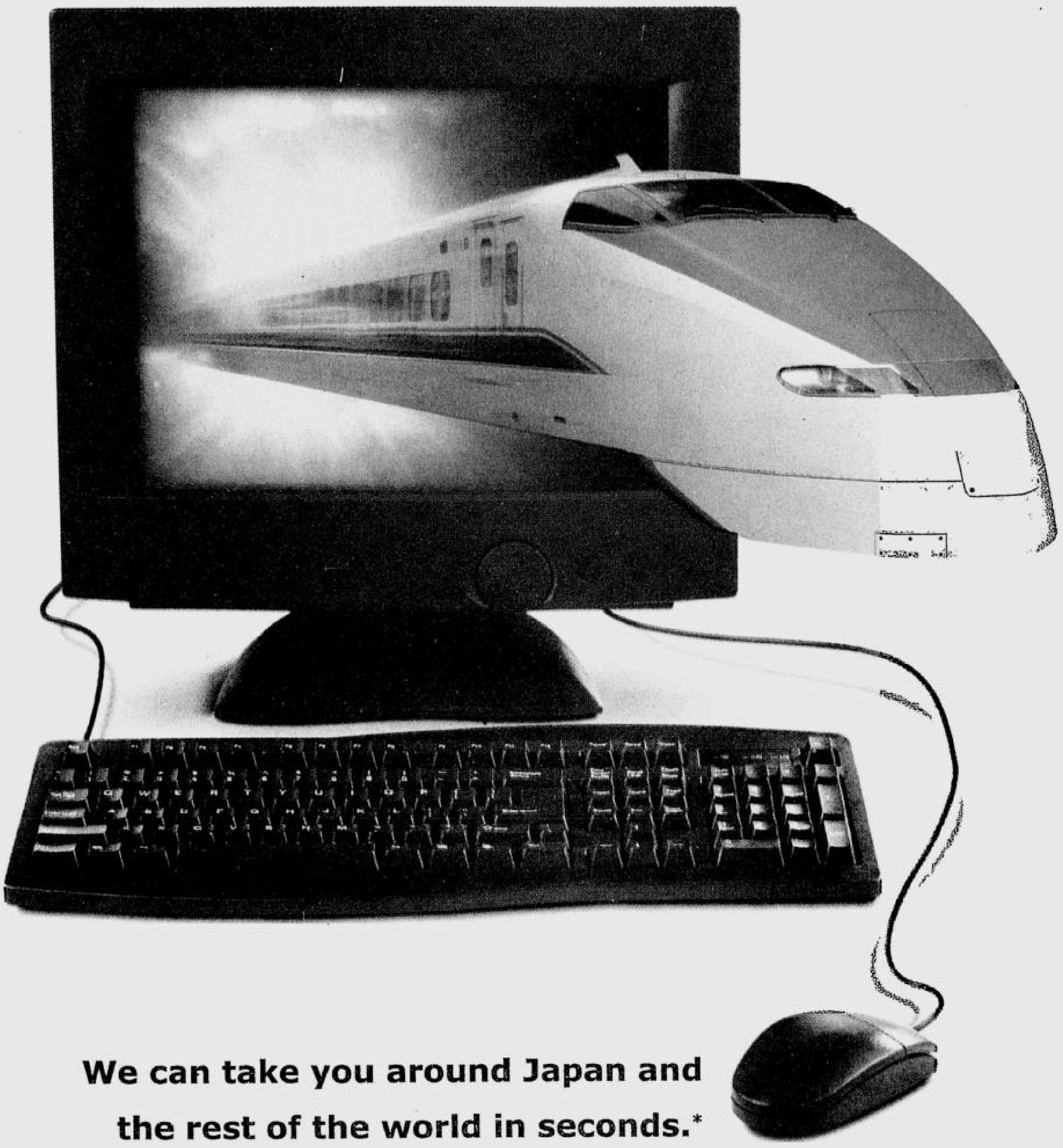

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# What do golf and deficit have in common?

**By Clarissa S. Batino**

HITTING the government's budget deficit target, says Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, is like playing golf—you have to aim beyond the hole to have an easier time sinking the ball.

But it was not only in golf where Camacho draws parallels to describe what the economic managers are currently going through to keep the budget deficit down.

"I could also liken it to a marathon or any race where the athlete does not stop right on the finish line but has a tendency to run past it. Like the athletes, the economic team has to aim past the finish line or try to swing well in golf and aim beyond the hole," says the finance secretary.

As the finance chief spun analogies to soften the perception on the government's widening budget problem, Camacho owns up in so many words that the government would likely miss its P130-billion deficit target this year.

As of July, the budget gap had exceeded the target and reached P133 billion.

"Whatever the deficit number is by the end of the year, we will just try to minimize it for the meantime and bring it as close as possible to P130 billion," says Camacho.

In aiming to hit his target, Camacho has started looking at extraordinary revenue sources, like the $600 million Marcos money held in an escrow account in Philippine National Bank, to help finance the gaping fiscal gap.

He admits that having the courts release the Marcos money in favor of the government would be a "dream" and was really an "extreme scenario" for the government.

By the media's standards, the finance chief, like his predecessors, had obviously crossed the dream world and this only shows how grave the fiscal problem is.

Among those covering the finance department, one sure sign that the budget deficit had blown to uncontrollable proportions is when the department secretary brings the Marcos wealth into the picture.

Still, Camacho believes that should that dream come true, "it would be a blowout since it would cover everything," referring to the Marcos millions that the Supreme Court had ruled must go to the government but this decision was contested by human rights victims.

"Hitting the deficit target is like playing golf, you have to aim a foot beyond the hole if you want to sink it," says the finance chief who admits he only played two rounds of golf since he joined the government last year.

Even after the seven-month budget gap exceeded the full-year target, the finance chief refuses to give up on what the economic team now refers to as the "fighting target" of P130-billion.

Revising the deficit, says Camacho, will only ease the pressure on agencies like the Bureaus of Internal Revenue and Customs to aggressively collect taxes and tariffs and meet their respective commitments this year.

CAMACHO

The resignation of BIR Commissioner Rene Bañez last August 19 exacerbated the burden of the finance chief.

"We have to keep our target because if we relax it, it would just take the pressure off and you set the bar lower. Our decision to keep the target is a management tool more than anything else," says the finance secretary.

> 'We are struggling with the deficit but our discipline in trying to keep the target should be given credit also'

The government's swollen deficit was largely caused by the weak revenue collections of the BIR and the BOC. In the first half, the BIR and the BOC incurred a shortfall of P33.46 billion and P9.11 billion against their respective targets.

Camacho notes that even if the deficit this year exceeds the target, the financial markets have already discounted this scenario and should have reflected such in their bids during the weekly auction of government securities.

"We are struggling with the deficit but our discipline in trying to keep the target should be given credit also," he says.

Camacho repeatedly complains how the local press tends to be fixated with the budget deficit when other economic numbers like inflation, interest rates and growth have been positive.

Inflation, he stresses, had fallen to a 30-year low of 2.6 percent in July while interest rates had been relatively soft at close to 5 percent compared with the 16 percent prevailing during the time of Estrada.

"I hope the market and the public try to give us credit for responding to the deficit in a most logical way," says Camacho.

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# Trust funds of pre-need firms

**MAPPING THE FUTURE**

*Evangeline C. Escobillo*

PRE-NEED has been in the news for a few weeks now, and much concern has been raised regarding the inadequacy of the trust funds of pre-need companies. Under SEC rules, the issuer of pre-need plans, or the pre-need company is required to establish a trust fund for each type of pre-need plan in accordance with the actuarial studies supporting the design of pre-need plans.

And, the particular actuarial study refers to the actuarial reserve liability.

The ARS' relationship with the trust fund must be explained. This article will attempt to do that.

The trust fund has been commonly confused and usually interpreted as the actuarial reserve Liability (ARL). The two are distinct and entirely different.

### Trust fund

Trust fund is an asset account where the payment of benefits is drawn while ARL is the value of the liabilities to planholders of the pre-need company. In short, when we look at the company's balance sheet, the Actuarial Reserve is a liability item recorded on the liability side, while the trust fund is an asset item recorded in the asset side.

The trust fund is always required to be at least equal to ARL to ensure that the trust fund assets can cover all obligations. The instances when the trust fund is smaller when compared to ARL, are when trust fund is said to be deficient.

A question was asked during the AIM forum on July 29 with regard to the adequacy of the actuarial reserve liabilities of a pre need company. To understand the need for adequacy of the ARL, it can be compared with the deposit liabilities of a bank.

### Valuation

However, because of the long-term nature of the pre-need benefit payments and the need to project the actual cost of education benefits for traditional education plans, an actuarial valuation of reserve liabilities has to be conducted by an actuary.

In conducting a valuation, the present value of the future benefits to all existing plan holders is computed and any future net contribution to reserve is netted out. In the present value computation, there are important factors considered that have great bearing on the resulting value of the ARL:

(a) **Net interest rate used in the present value computation.** If the interest rate used in valuation is very high like 15 percent per annum, while the reasonable and appropriate interest rate is, say, 10 percent, then the valuation outcome will definitely be understated by as much as 36.5 percent, or ARL is inadequate by as much as 36.5 percent.

### Actuary

The actuary who is doing the valuation must evaluate carefully the expected average annual yield rate (net of taxes and expenses) of the trust Fund assets.

(b) **Amount of Benefits Payable.** When the benefit is a defined fixed amount the actuary has no room for deviation. But, when the benefit is the actual cost of the tuition, it is important that at valuation date, the current tuition cost is used as the base cost and projected annually using the inflation rate applicable to tuition.

The general inflation rate is not fit for this purpose because it is based on a basket of goods and services not only education. If the base tuition used by the actuary is, let us say, 40 percent lower than the current tuition rate and this is compounded by a low assumption of inflation rate of, say, 6 percent, when it should be 8 percent, the understatement of ARL is greatly pronounced by an estimated 54 percentof whatever ARL was computed using the underestimated assumptions on tuition.

### Termination

(c) **Termination rate.** Generally, high termination rate would also result in low ARL. The valuation actuary must set up termination rate assumptions in a prudent manner.

(d) **Valuation formula.** Prospective valuation method should be employed and when deferment of acquisitions cost is the accounting practice of the pre-need company, the net level method must be used. And when there is something wrong formulations, chances are the ARL is undervalued.

To say the ARL is adequate would really depend on the integrity of the actuarial valuation exercise. We should appreciate the effort of the SEC at present, for adopting steps to ensure that future actuarial reserve valuation

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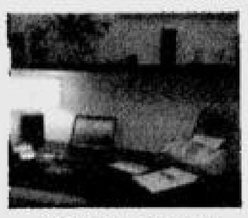

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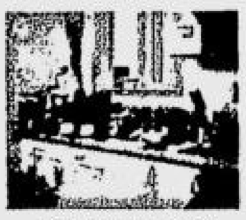

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With Mabuhay Miles, members earn miles which can be redeemed for free flights and service class upgrades, by flying Philippine Airlines, staying in partner hotels, or charging purchases using HSBC's Mabuhay Miles Visa card.

The Mabuhay Miles Visa carries the standard features of an international credit card but differentiates itself from other cards in the market by offering special benefits exclusive to the card and designed to meet the needs of a specific target market—PAL's frequent flyers.

Mabuhay Miles Visa allows cardholders to earn bonus points for all card spending, including gas, grocery and medicine purchases. Every P45 charged to Mabuhay Miles Visa earns one bonus point, equivalent to one mile. Accumulated bonus points may be used to redeem miles for free domestic and international flights or to apply for upgrades to business or first class.

"The Mabuhay Miles Visa allows us to focus on a specific niche market, this time, members of PAL's Mabuhay Miles frequent flyer program. This follows our strategy of developing card products and programs that appeal to various consumers and ensure a quality pool of cardholders," said vice president for card marketing Rowell del Fierro.

Del Fierro, who heads the bank's think tank for new card variants, promotions, rewards and loyalty programs, says that thinking "market segments" allows them to develop products that are more closely aligned to the needs of intended users.

"Around the world, HSBC works to find customized financial solutions for customers. Our credit cards are no different. We go beyond generic, one-size-fits-all credit cards. As the world's local bank, we try as much as possible to study the local market, consumer habits and lifestyles and use this information in designing our card offerings," said Del Fierro.

Del Fierro also notes that in a highly competitive industry, fresh ideas and relevant features will set your credit card apart.

"The best thing that ever happened to today's consumer is choice. They have a wide array of credit cards to choose from and the smart customers, who make the most use of credit in a responsible manner, will keep only the cards with best and relevant value to them," said Del Fierro.

The Mabuhay Miles Visa is ideal for those who use Philippine Airlines frequently, whether traveling locally or abroad. A Mabuhay Miles Visa cardholder automatically becomes a member of the Mabuhay Miles frequent flyer program that allows the cardholder to earn additional miles for every PAL flight and for all card spending using their Mabuhay Miles Visa.

"The Mabuhay Miles Visa allows cardholders to translate everyday purchases into free flights—adding value to what may be just an ordinary credit card purchase. In effect, they are saving for free trips even as they spend," added Del Fierro.

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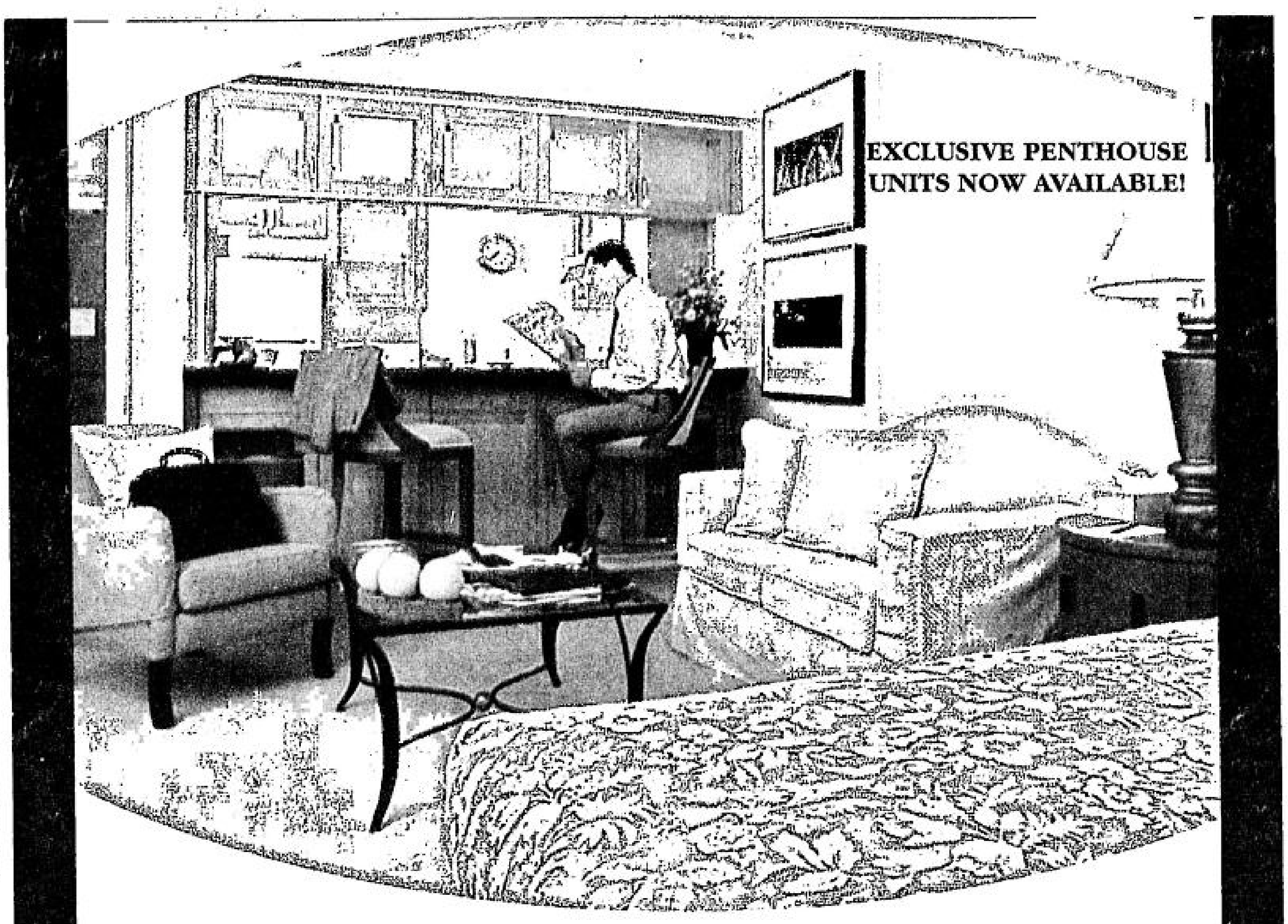

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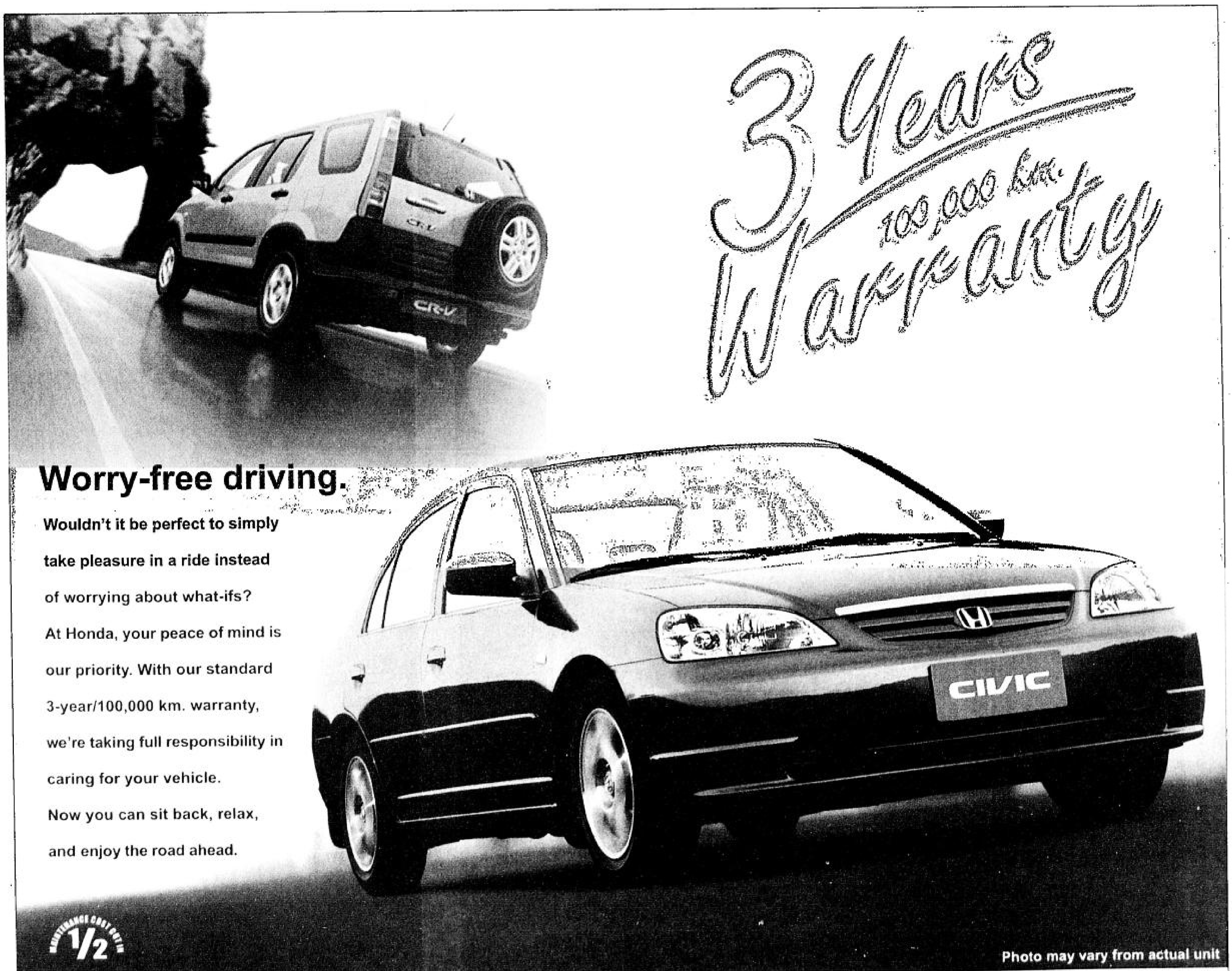

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HONDA

# 1st student entrepreneurs fair shows youth has got it made

By Abigail L. Ho

WHAT happens when a college student gets a brilliant idea, scrunches up enough money to bring it to life and gathers enough guts to actually sell that idea to others?

A student entrepreneur is born.

Most adults think of the youth as confused individuals who are stuck between childhood and adulthood, who only go to college to party, to satisfy their parents' wishes and to get diplomas so they can find jobs in the future.

Nobody thinks college students can actually do more than these things, much less put up their own businesses, says Vivienne Tan, chief executive officer of Thames International Business School and daughter of taipan Lucio Tan.

VIVIENNE Tan to the youth: It's okay to go into business and fail. Because failure is part of success.

Proving these people wrong, 40 student entrepreneurs came together last Friday and Saturday at the SM Megamall Megatrade Hall to show their wares during the first Student Entrepreneurs Fair sponsored by Thames.

Being the first of its kind in the country, Tan relates that marketing for the fair was even more difficult than finding student entrepreneurs to fill the 40 spots for exhibitors.

"When we were starting it, it was frustrating that a lot of people questioned: 'can the youth do it?' They're biased. They think kids are not consistent and not responsible enough. It was easy to conceptualize (the event). The hardest part was getting people to come in (and help see it through). Many companies were skeptical because they did not trust students," she says.

But judging from the number of applications Thames got for the fair—around 90 from 21 colleges and universities all over Metro Manila—there are student entrepreneurs out there just waiting to get bigger breaks.

### Innovative concepts

Thames chose the Young Entrepreneurs Organization (YEO) to pick the first winners of the search.

YEO president Katrina Limcaoco says the organization welcomed the opportunity of participating in a project that involved the youth.

She relates that YEO had been looking for a project that would increase its involvement in the local entrepreneurial scene and that Thames' invitation to judge was very timely.

The students surprised the YEO members with their innovative concepts and guts to delve into the risky world of business, she says.

"We were really surprised with the quality of their businesses. They have very big potential to succeed, a lot of potential after school. I was impressed with their drive. I was inspired after interviewing all the kids," she relates.

Thames director Joel Santos adds that a student entrepreneur must own the business himself and not have an older person as a partner.

The student entrepreneurs' businesses ranged from cakes and cookies, pet shops, an advertising agency to a shoe manufacturing company.

There was even a "headhunter" who looks for jobs for his friends.

"They had all sorts of businesses, really. They sold fermented coffee, made teddy bears from coconut husks, maintained a website that earned from ads and made wooden slippers or *bakya*. They also came from all backgrounds, from the low-tier universities to the high-end universities. But it really doesn't matter where they came from," Santos says.

Tan adds that students from lower income bracket families sometimes have more drive than their more affluent counterparts and that those hailing from lower tier universities sometimes have better business concepts.

"Maybe because this is born out of need," she comments.

### Mentoring

The top student entrepreneurs will be placed in a "mentoring" program at Thames. Santos says it is not enough that these students are already doing well in their respective businesses.

"They may be good but they can still get better. A majority of the applicants only had their businesses for less than two years. We believe we can still teach them more," he says.

Tan adds that the mentoring program will not be spoon-feeding each of the winners but rather helping them along, especially when they want some questions answered by someone who has more experience in business.

Tan says she believes that young entrepreneurs will help alleviate the country's unemployment problem.

Instead of fighting for the few jobs that are out there, the youth should focus more on creating jobs for others by starting their own businesses, she adds.

"This is one of the programs that we'd like to carry on in the coming years. We need to instill in the youth that it's okay to go into business and fail. It's fine to keep on failing because failure is part of success. We just need the youth to have more guts to face whatever stumbling blocks there are," she says.

*(The winners of the Ten Inspirational Entrepreneurial Students or TIES Awards will be featured in the INQUIRER next month.)*

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# Proudly made in RP

By Anne Luisa E. Villarico

A SAD reality among Filipino consumers is their preference for imported goods over those with the "Made in the Philippines" tag.

This thinking prompted Sung Sik Lee, president of SS Ventures International Inc., makers of branded athletic shoes and Ma. Evelyn Martel, vice president of Good Sail Trading (GTI), to invite their friends and associates from various professions to create the Gawang Pinoy Foundation Inc. (GFPI), a non-stock, non-government organization registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission to bring back pride in patronizing Filipino products.

The members of the foundation carry the vision that instead of complaining and doing nothing, patronizing Filipino products will be a very effective cause to propel the economy and uplift the lives of the people with increased employment coming from increased demand of local goods.

GFPI also aims to spread awareness particularly among the youth that the products made in the Philippines are equally good, if not better than foreign products.

"We know that it's happening already (lack of patronage for local products), so we think we should do something about it," says Edwin Zamora, one of the GFPI trustees.

"We are not here as an organization to put down other nationalities or other countries with regards to their products, it happens that with the improvement in our country's different aspects, we want to be at par with them (other countries). We derive inspiration from that, so we want to build to accomplish our goals," says lawyer Grace Lu Santos, member of the board of trustees.

Rose Marie de Lemos, president of GFPI adds, "this organization is not against any kind of foreign branded products... as long as they (foreign investors) provide job opportunities to the Filipino and for them to take the risk and invest in our country.

"Our economy is artificial, we depend on the outside economy," said Zamora.

### Productive members of society

GFPI has already initiated educational seminars and plant tours for students from different schools in Bataan, Subic, Laguna and Cavite to impress upon them that Philippine-made products are good.

The students were also shown facilities and equipment, which were the same as those used for high-end foreign products.

Aside from educational plant tours, GFPI will also sponsor educational contests like essay writing, painting, singing and dancing that will enhance the spirit of nationalism.

The board also observed that when Filipino manufacturers are making products for export, they make sure that their quality is at par with international standards. But when they make goods for the local market, much is lacking with the quality.

Continued patronage of local products keep factories open, create employment for students who do not need to seek work abroad. More importantly, it will help preserve the country's dollar reserves.

GFPI has also begun seeking tie-ups with other movements and organizations with similar objectives and be an instrument in increasing business activities in the domestic market.

GFPI, established on May 23 this year, is already laying out the plans of establishing regional chapters to centralize the promotion of Philippine made products with the aid of government and the manufacturing sectors.

GFPI board of trustees: (standing, L-R) Mr. Jose Chua Sideño, Atty. John D.A. Ponce Jr., Mr. Antonio F. See, Mr. Alfredo G. De Leon, Mr. Earl F. Montero, Mr. Sung Sik Lee. (Seated, L-R) Mrs. Virginia A. Simeon, Mrs. Elizabeth S. Pangilinan, Ms Rose Marie P. De Lemos, Ms Ma. Evelyn M. Martel and Ms Grace Lu Santos

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# Trust funds of pre-need firms

From page C2

is done properly and not provide room for manipulating assumptions.

Manipulating assumptions may result in the company reflecting a net income when there should be none, and in the process minimize the required deposits to the trust fund.

We should also commend the current SEC administration for putting in place rules governing the trust fund, such as limits to highly speculative investments. However, there are many things that still need to be done to implement them effectively.

As earlier mentioned, the trust fund yield has a significant effect on the viability of pre-need plans; more so, on the safety of the principal investment. It is well recognized that good quality of assets that are diversified will give a better value of asset at risk.

### Regulator

Realizing the difficulty of anticipating trends in investments, the regulator has set limits to the proportions of the trust fund that are invested in various types of assets, so as to achieve a good balance of the factors of safety, liquidity and yield.

Liquidity is a measure of the proportion of assets of the trust fund that can be converted into cash in time to pay for any benefit that is due, without loss in value upon its conversion.

### Trust fund

The Rules require that at least 10 percent of the trust fund must be in liquid assets but it should not end there. However, the pre-need company should calculate the projected benefit payments at least for the next three years and make sure that it has liquid assets to match them.

To satisfy the consideration of yield means that the asset is able to accrue interest that will bring the fund level now to the level equivalent to the benefits payable in the future. And as earlier discussed, yield assumptions also affect the actuarial reserve valuation.

Lower actual yield than expected will need adjustment in the interest rate assumption on ARL. The factor of safety means that the assets are not in highly speculative investments, where there is danger of loss of capital. This is one reason regulations often require that trust fund assets must be invested in stocks of companies that have a track record of profitability.

A good investment mix is such that there is not too much investment in one type of asset in proportion to other assets, so that investment returns can be uniformly expected and not come in cycles of feast or famine.

With the huge amount of trust funds of the pre-need industry, it is not only SEC that should be concerned about its proper administration but also Bangko Sentral Ng Pilipinas to ensure that basic prudential measures in managing such investments are religiously observed.

Against these factors, the quality of the trust fund can be determined. The trust fund is the ultimate determining element for the planholder to sleep in peace, so that when he wakes up the next morning, he would not fear that his child will not be able to start college, then graduate, because the pre-need company did not set aside sufficient funds for the needed expenses.

*(The author is a fellow of the Actuarial Society of the Philippines and former consultant of the Securities and Exchange Commission for Pre-need. The MAP Secretariat and the author may be reached at mapsec@globenet.com.ph.)*

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# Leadership ...

From page C7

**Leadership that is transparent.** Visions do not stay with one person. They are shared by everybody. Visions are communicated to the entire organization with sustained energy and strong conviction. Use the organization's formal and informal communications network to get your organization's vision and values accepted, understood and promoted by the entire organization employees.

### Transparency

Key to transparency is to exert every effort to walk the talk. The organization must behave in a manner that is consistent with the organization's vision and values. This means that an organization's vision must be integrated and reflected in the company's symbols, rituals, staff meetings, benefits and compensation, products and services, recognition and achievement awards, etc.

**Leadership that motivates and energizes.** A vision may not necessarily come from one person. The CEO or the owner, whoever is the greatest influence in the organization, may initiate and lead the process in the creation of the organization's vision. What is critical is to get the entire organization to share in the vision. This can only happen when you involve the organization in the visioning process. Enthusiasm and energetic spirit for the vision can only be sustained if the vision is collectively shared and the leadership team is personally engaged and committed to the vision.

### Humility

**Leadership with great humility.** Just like many heads of organizations, leaders are naturally ambitious. True leaders however, chart their ambition first and foremost to their organization, not to their own persons and self-interest. They channel their ego away from themselves and into the larger institution—all captured into a long-term vision for the organization.

*(The writer is a professor of Marketing Management and Brand Management at the De La Salle Professional School's Graduate School of Business.)*

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# Bourse players to go on image-building campaign

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

ACCUSATIONS of rampant insider trading, leadership crises and the perception that the stock market is driven more by rumors than facts, among others, have kept foreign and even local investors away from the Philippine stock market.

This has caused daily trading volume at the local bourse to drop to as low as P139 million, the lowest in 10 years, from a high of over P4 billion during the long gone bull run of 1993 and 1994.

PSE's current leaders, however, led by chair Vivian Yuchengco are determined to get those investors back. They have organized the first roadshow by PSE, listed companies and member-brokers to showcase the new and improved Philippine Stock Exchange.

"We want to show investors that this is the new framework of the PSE. We have to convince people to come back to the market which has been languishing during the past years because of all these scandals," Yuchengco tells Business Monday in an interview.

One of the biggest come-ons that the PSE will show investors during the foreign and local roadshow is the list of reforms that the exchange has implemented to put the house back in order.

"We will, for instance, have the salesmen and the traders sign the code of ethics of the exchange so that they would be held accountable. We also have a code of corporate governance from the Securities and Exchange Commission which we also want people to sign," she says.

The PSE board has also approved a minimum commission requirement for the brokerage houses to upgrade the service to the clients, and has put up a new website (www.pse.com.ph) where investors can check the latest on the stock market.

"These are just some of the reforms that we want to implement to make the exchange more transparent. We will also invest in investor education programs to encourage more people and institutions to invest in the local exchange and contribute to the economy," Yuchengco says.

The PSE, thus, adopted the theme "A New Start, A Conduit for Growth and Opportunities" for the roadshow, which will kick off on Sept. 9 in Hong Kong sponsored by Credit Lyonnais, then move to Singapore on the 10th through the help of the Deutsche Securities and finally in the Philippines on Sept. 16.

YUCHENGCO

Listed firms Jollibee Food Corp., Manila Electric Co., Ayala Corp., SM Prime Holdings, San Miguel Corp. and Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. will present their company profiles to the fund managers and institutional investors who will attend the roadshow.

"We have to regain the credibility of the PSE, so we have gathered people from government and the private sector to help us in this venture. We are also happy that companies and brokerage firms would be with us," Yuchengco says.

For the Philippine leg, which would be held at the Manila Peninsula, Yuchengco says the PSE has also invited potential client groups such as Overseas Filipino Workers, professionals and schools to increase awareness on how to invest in the stock market.

Some member-brokers of the PSE would be present to hand out brochures and to help walk clients through how the stock market works.

"We want to increase awareness on the market and remove that perception that the market is only for the rich. It is not," Yuchengco says.

She adds that drumming up awareness on the market will go hand-in-hand with the PSE's efforts to encourage more companies to list on the stock exchange.

"We want people to know that the exchange is a good place to either raise or invest money," she says.

# *4As mounts students' forum*

ADVERTISING is an integral part of our everyday lives. With its vast coverage and influence—from television to radio and print, or even non-traditional media vehicles—everyone has encountered advertisements in one form or the other.

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The advertising field beckons for those looking for an exciting career path--fast paced, challenging, high profile and for those who eventually excel, it's their "claim to fame."

### Preview

But for those currently studying the rudiments of advertising, or are about to verge into joining the field, wouldn't you like a preview of what's in store for you?

Although theoretical teaching is still an indispensable part of the advertising process, it should be supplemented with practical learning. In this light, the Association of Accredited Advertising Agencies, or better known as the 4as, will be mounting the first-ever Students' Forum in its upcoming Advertising Summit slated from Aug. 29 to 31 at the Westin Philippine Plaza.

### Forum

The Students' Forum has been designed to impart invaluable teachings of the advertising development process that will provide attendees a real appreciation of the field of advertising, and create a positive image toward pursuing advertising as a career.

Dubbed "Ad Development Process," the forum will teach the basic and essential step-by-step process in an advertising campaign, to be discussed by the luminaries in advertising.

The forum will be divided into five sub-topics representing the Ad Development Process, to wit: client briefing, planning and strategy, ideation/creation, production and direction and media planning and implementation.

Advertising students, graduates and those from the academe are encouraged to attend the event. This forum will serve as the venue for the convergence of the industry's top-notch advertising agencies.

*For registration and inquiries, contact the 4As Secretariat at 893-1205.*

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# Pilak Awards: 25 classic advertising masterpieces

*"Hindi lang pang pamilya, pang isports pa"*

"I swear *kumapal and buhok ko*"

*"Iba ang may pinagsamahan"*

COMMERCIAL taglines – who could forget them? They have a natural way of sticking to our minds and becoming part of our every day idiom. But it is not just taglines, classic commercials per se that have a great effect on people. How many years have passed since we laughed at the sight of the homely bald man striking the unforgettable pose for a brand of vinegar or got teary-eyed when that cute little girl in a fast-food ad was desperately looking for her doll, Jennifer? If you don't know or recall these older advertisements, then perhaps a newer line will apply to you – "*Magpakatotoo ka* sister."

Then and now, advertisements have been part of every Filipino, reflecting our dreams, our uniqueness, our culture, our life. Beyond these innumerable commercials showcasing a myriad of products, services and more, are classic ads that transcend time and remain embedded in the memory of viewers long after they hit the airwaves or conquered print media. With their catchy lines, unforgettable jingles and brilliant concepts, these masterpieces have influenced numerous people and shaped the country's advertising industry.

In recognition of advertising's creative geniuses, the Association of Accredited Advertising Agencies (4As) has embarked on an ambitious feat of naming 25 classic ads through Pilak Awards. To coincide with the celebration of 4A's 25th anniversary, Pilak Awards will culminate the association's three-day "Advertising Summit" slated from Aug. 29 to 31 at the Westin Philippine Plaza.

Behind this grand and rather controversial undertaking are the industry's stalwarts led by Grace Chong, head of the Pilak Awards sub-committee and former executive director of DYR/Alcantara. Advertising's most prominent figures – Greg Garcia, Emily Abrera, Mon Jimenez, Robert Labayen, David Guerrero and Socky Pitargue, to name a few—have expressed their overwhelming excitement and support. In fact, these seasoned ad experts have participated in drawing up the project's official procedures.

Qualified nominees for the prestigious award are print, radio or television advertisements, which captivated audiences and became part of Pinoy popular culture; successfully implemented campaigns that stood out among others, pioneered an idea or technique that has never been done before; and those that revolutionized the advertising landscape. Entries must have been published or aired before Dec. 31, 2001. Also, vying entries must have existing copies so judges may be able to view them. To help ensure the availability of the nominated commercials, a special team was formed spearheaded by Amar Gambol and Dodie Lucas for television and Jun Castro for radio.

4As accepted nominations from its member organizations of the Adboard as well. Likewise, former advertising practitioners who have been significant players in the industry were allowed to nominate their all-time favorite commercials. Each agency, organization or individual were allowed to submit a maximum of 25 entries.

The challenging task of narrowing down the numerous entries was supervised by the pre-screening committee comprised of Jay Jay Calero, Greg Garcia, Louie Morales, Tweetums Gonzalez, Mon Jimenez, David Guerrero, Boy Javier, Nonna Nanagas, Robert Labayen, Jimmy Santiago, Tere Filipinia, Meckoy Quiogue and Nonoy Gallardo. Like a trip down memory lane, the pre-screening process was truly heartening and a bit nostalgic as the committee previewed a varied mix of timeless pieces and recent ad hits.

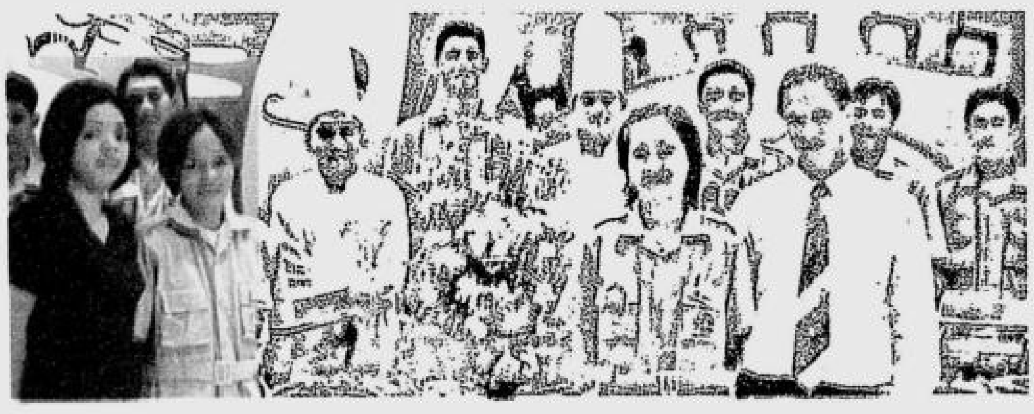
The final judgment will be passed on to a formidable lineup of seasoned advertising practitioners representing three different generations – those with 30 or more years of advertising expertise (including retired luminaries), those with 15 to 29 years of experience, and those who have been in the industry for less than 15 years.

Indeed, the whole advertising arena excitedly awaits Pilak Awards' winning commercial classics. After 25 years, these ads will finally receive the honor and recognition they deserve. After all, these ads are the opuses of great minds and emblems of the advertising industry's unparalleled creativity and ingenuity.

Through these commercial classics, Pilaw Awards aims to inspire today's advertising players to create their own advertising masterpieces that will endure another 25 years and more.

**GLAUCOMA SOCIETY TO HOST SEAGIG 2002**

The Philippine Glaucoma Society met recently to finalize plans for SeaGig 2002 with the theme 'Glaucoma: Southeast Asian and Global Perspectives'. This will be held at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel from Sept. 26 to 28. 32 luminaries from all over the world will discuss various aspects of glaucoma management. Dr. Robert Ritch, chief of the Glaucoma Service, the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary will be lecturing on Filtration Failure as well as Angle Closure Glaucoma. Dr. George Spaeth, head of the Glaucoma Service, the Wills Eye Hospital will talk about determining true progression. Symposia and instructional courses on visual fields, optic nerve imaging, lasers and glaucoma surgery will be handled by a distinguished panel of international experts led by Drs. Ivan Goldberg, Yoshiaki Kitazawa, Robert Stamper and Paul Chew. All Filipino opthalmologists are urged to take part in this once-in-a-lifetime event. Regular registration is ongoing. Log on to www.seagig2002.org or call 522-0541 to 48 for details.



**NEW CATERING SERVICES FROM CONGO GRILL**

Congo Grill, one of the most popular restaurant chains serving delectable Filipino favorites, now offers a catering service anywhere within Metro Manila. Available for any special occasion such as birthdays, conferences, and wedding receptions, Congo Grill catering service provides a complete staff delivering any set menu of choice. For an occasion with a minimum gathering of 60 persons, one can now call any of the restaurant's three branches in Quezon City, Ortigas and Makati and bring the Congo Grill experience anywhere needed. For more information, call 925-3896, 638-3857 and 750-9312. Shown are the Congo Grill men and women ready to serve its customers in, or out, of the store.

Consulting Services
Service Agreement

**MICROSOFT, STRADCOM PROMOTE E-GOVERNANCE**

Microsoft Philippines recently signed an agreement with Stradcom Corp. to enable the two companies promote e-governance initiatives in the Philippines. Under the agreement, Microsoft will assist Stradcom in the development of the Compulsory Third-Party Liability (CTPL) Insurance Authentification Facility and the Drug Test Results Validation Facilities. These facilities will interface with the Land Transportation Office-Information Technology Project, which is being undertaken by Stradcom with Unisys Philippines as the system integrator. Present during the signing are (seated, from left) Microsoft Philippines services director Dittas Formoso, Microsoft Philippines managing director Richard Francis, Stradcom president and CEO Jose Chua and Stradcom chief finance officer Raul Pagdanganan. Also present were (standing, from left) Microsoft Philippines strategic business director Sam Jacoba, Stradcom business development manager Oscar de Venecia; Stradcom chief operating officer Ramon Reyes; Unisys Philippines core applications manager Carol Sahagun, Unisys Philippines project management office manager Gigi de los Reyes, Stradcom chief legal officer lawyer Eric Pilapil and Stradcom chief management services Anthony Quiambao.

Makati Medical Center
Resource Center
OPEN!!!

**MSD RESOURCE CENTER AT MMC**

Merck Sharp & Dohme Philippines (MSD) provides doctors in Makati Medical Center easier access to the services of its MSD Resource Center (MRC) with a more strategic location inside the Dr. Mariano Alimurung Medical Library at the 9th floor of the Makati Medical Center (MMC). The MMC-MRC was formally launched with the unveiling of the symbolic plaque of partnership led by (from left) MSD corporate affairs director Christine Liwanag, Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay, MSD business unit director Stephanie Merida, MMC president and medical director Dr. Raul Fores, and MMC corporate secretary Dr. Benjamin Alimurung.

## BITS & Clips

### Buy a Frontier, win an Escapade

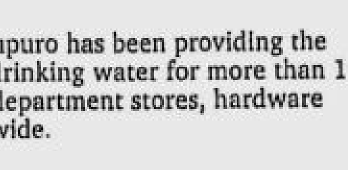
UNIVERSAL Motors Corp (UMC), the exclusive assembler and distributor of Nissan light commercial and recreational vehicles, unleashes its promo "The Frontier Escapade Offer". This fabulous deal gives all Nissan Frontier buyers between Aug. 1 to Sept. 15 a chance to own a Nissan Urvan Escapade, for free. It also entitles them to choose one of these enticing offers: 0 interest for 12 months for every 50 percent downpayment financing scheme, a free portable DVD player for a 4x2 Frontier or an accessory package of equivalent value, a free one-year comprehensive insurance, or a free bed canopy for the 4x4 Frontier or an accessory package of equivalent value. Drive away with more pleasure with the Nissan Frontier, the number one pickup truck in the country today. Know more of this Frontier Escapade promo by visiting your nearest Nissan dealer.

### Int'l gathering of dermatologists

FROM NOV. 12 to 16, the Philippines will be the site of an international gathering of dermatologists when the 15th Regional Conference of Dermatology will be held at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel in Mandaluyong. With the theme "Developments and Directions in Dermatology", an impressive faculty composed of world-renowned leaders in dermatological research and clinical practice will be on hand to provide an interesting and challenging educational experience to participants. The Philippine League of Dermatologists has invited specialists from the United States, United Kingdom, France, Germany, Australia and Asia to share their expertise and knowledge.

## Product FILES

### Safe drinking water



WITH THE onslaught of typhoons and floods, the problem of contaminated water has increased significantly together with diseases such as diarrhea and other gastrointestinal disorders. To combat this problem, more and more Filipino households are now relying on Tupuro Water Filter for safe and purified drinking water from their faucets. Tupuro Water Filter uses high-grade, high-quality activated carbon, which reduces bacteria levels drastically and also eliminates mud, rust flakes, fine sands, asbestos, chlorine and acidity from tap water. And since it is installed right in your own faucet, enjoy a continuous supply of safe and pure drinking water—definitely a better solution than expensive bottled water. Tupuro has been providing the Filipino with purified and safe drinking water for more than 10 years. It is available in leading department stores, hardware stores and supermarkets nationwide.

**LA FUNERARIA PAZ-SUCAT INAUGURATED**

La Funeraria Paz-Sucat Inc. inaugurated its three-story mortuary inside Manila Memorial Park in Sucat, Parañaque during the Feast of the Transfiguration Aug. 6. Shown during the ribbon-cutting are (from left) Helen Y. Dee, chair, Manila Memorial Park and House of Investments, Jocelyn I. Bolante, Undersecretary, Department of Agriculture, Dioscoro R. Pacis, executive assistant to Mayor Joey Marquez, Enrique B. Lagdameo, (partly hidden), president, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat Inc., Rep. Monico Puentebella and Francisco A. Alba, Ambassador to the Vatican. The blessing was officiated by Msgr. Chito Bernardo. The new mortuary is a joint venture between Manila Memorial Park, House of Investments, and La Funeraria Paz.

YOUTH FOUNDATION
TOUCH CAR
ONTRACT S IG, JULY 2002

**RICO YAN TOUCH CARD LAUNCHED**

PLDT recently launched its Rico Yan Touch Card Limited Edition in support of the late Rico Yan's greatest legacy – The Rico Yan Youth Foundation (RYYF). Shown shaking hands after the contract signing are Jon Jon San L. Agustin, PLDT vice president for national retail marketing and Rico's mother Sita Yan, president of the RYYF.

**PROFESSOR AWARDED FOR EXCELLENCE**

Dr. Zenaida L. Cruz, author of tourism textbooks, founding president of the Tourism Educators of Schools, Colleges and Universities and tourism professor at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines, received the 'Professional Excellence – Best Service in Tourism Education Award' given by the Social Action and Civic Movement Inc. at the Holiday Inn recently. To her left is Victoria Rivera, presentor of the award.

# Leadership that endures for the long term

**By Karen V. De Asis**
*Contributor*

A COMPANY'S failure is very often blamed on a competitive business environment, misguided marketing directions, absence of skilled staff, lack of resources and financial control, and inadequacy of technology.

Seldom is it blamed on the organization's leadership.

Ironically, it is the company's leadership which must carry much of the weight and accountability for an organization's success or failure. Leadership may be the owners or the board of directors or administrators or the executive committee—those who influence in charting the fate of the organization.

The mark of true leadership that has guided many successful organizations include the following:

**Leadership with vision.** Visionary leaders are forward thinkers. Their vision is never whimsical but is grounded on an understanding of their firm's relevance to the market.

### Forward thinking

Forward-thinking leaders recognize an evolving market and their changing customers' needs and expectations. Guided by their vision, the authentic leader is never afraid to incur risks in the interest of serving his or her organization and customers more efficiently.

While visionary leaders recognize the need to deal with short-term pressures, which often relates to financial resources, they intuitively know how to prioritize and allocate enough time, resources, energy and commitment to the development of a long-term big picture view of the business.

### Visionaries

These leaders carry the vision into the future. They recognize and understand the impact of present-day decisions and strategies on the organization's future performance and their customers' needs and wants. Microsoft's Bill Gates and longtime friend Paul Allen believed that computers could perform wonders even before it became the mode and they ceaselessly worked on this vision despite personal and financial barriers. The two shared the vision nearly 30 years ago of a computer on every desk and in every home.

**Leadership that recognizes change.** Visionary leaders recognize the importance of change. While visionary leaders recognize the significance of track record and historical experience as significant and not irrelevant, they know that changes in the environment require this same historical experience to seek constant adjustment. Visionary leaders do not claim to resolutely know everything, they recognize changes in the environment and its impact to the business, anticipate problems and seek opportunities, encourage fresh perspectives and innovative breakthrough ideas and refrain from stubborn refusal to adopt change.

### Adopting change

Bill Gates' close call with failure to adopt to change almost created a huge dent in his business when he realized too late in 1993 how the speed of the Internet revolution was creating huge impact on the lives of many industries and customer markets.

### Recognizing trends

In 1994, Microsoft did a turnaround 45 days after recognizing this important trend. It introduced a new product and pricing strategy for the internet. His sentiment, "Some people draw an analogy to IBM missing out on really benefiting from PCs - Microsoft's miscue on the internet is not the same...It was a wonderful chance for me to go to the Company and remind them, 'Hey, we don't have a guaranteed place. We've got to take this Internet initiative and really surprise the world with what we can do."

In the same manner, Jack Welch, CEO of General Electric, has been refining GE's vision for 15 years.

**Leadership that empowers.** Visionary companies are careful in the selection of their leadership teams. They dislike power seekers who strive hard to reach positions where they become largely motivated by control and autocratic rule over a huge number of staff from whom they demand unquestioning obedience.

### Teams

Visionary companies seek an environment and culture of coaching and mentoring with leadership teams confident and exhibiting knowledge and skills. Visionary leaders systematically involve leadership teams in discussing the vision and contributing to its refinement. The leadership team is freely empowered to put the vision in place in day-to-day business operations.

LEADERSHIP/ C4

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# Co-op grew from ₱586

**By Romy G. Amarado**
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

DUMAGUETE CITY—A multipurpose cooperative from very humble beginnings is now embarking on a multimillion-peso housing project for its members.

The Perpetual Help Community Cooperative Inc. (PHCCI), which was organized on April 14, 1971 with a measly initial capital of P586, has now allocated some P50 million for the project.

Eddie Lantaca, who managed the cooperative since it was founded, says the project will start with the site development anytime next month. Actual construction of the houses begins early next year.

Lantaca and some pillars of PHCCI conceptualized the project in 1998 and was submitted for approval to the general assembly on the same year.

Lawyer Honorato Andaya, chair of the PHCCI board of directors, says the project will address the problem of homelessness among its members.

"This is only the beginning. Later on, perhaps we can also expand our project to non-members," Andaya says.

Crestita Umbac, chair of the co-op's housing committee, says the project promotes "community building" as it allows the members to own a house and lot at a very affordable price.

Lantaca says some 212 houses will be built in the 3.4-hectare PHCCI lot in Barangay Cadawinonan, this city.

Zimel Magallano, PHCCI housing officer, says each unit will cost from P180,000 (socialized housing) to P500,000 (low cost housing).

Lantaca says the PHCCI will have no problem funding the project as it has grown into one of the biggest multipurpose cooperatives in the country.

PHCCI assets now run to P700 million with 31,900 members, from the 33 pioneering members that the cooperative had when it was established in 1971.

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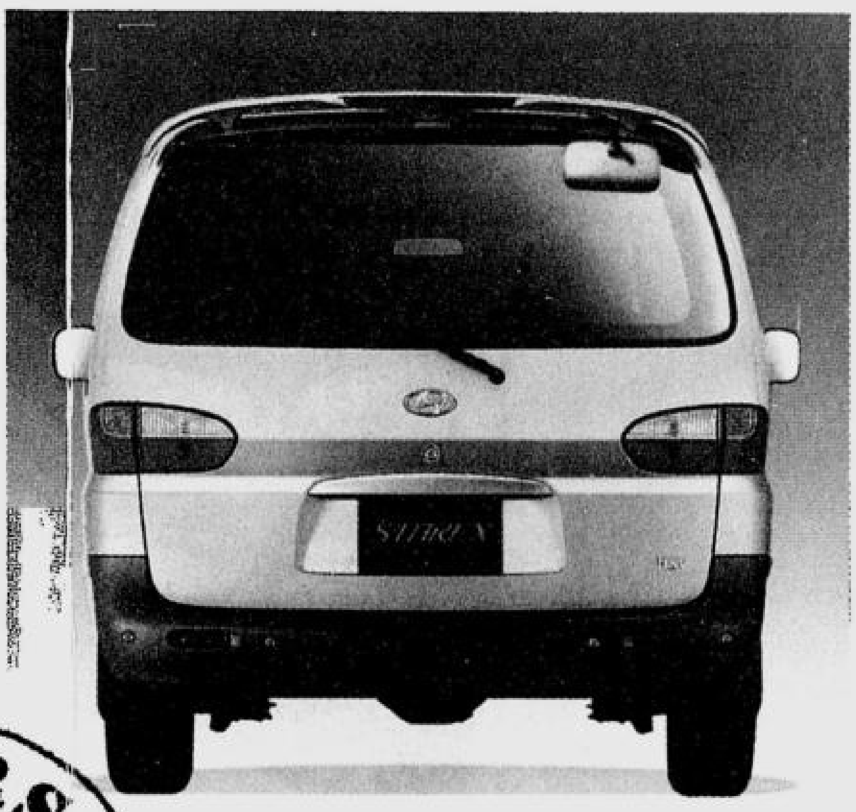

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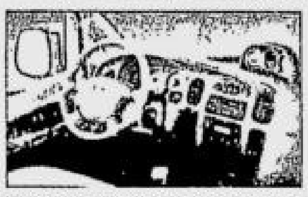

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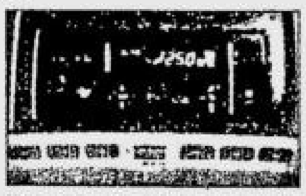

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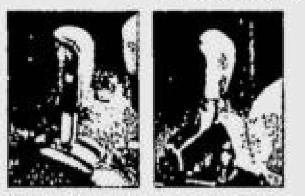

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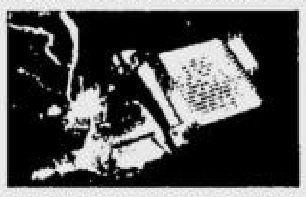

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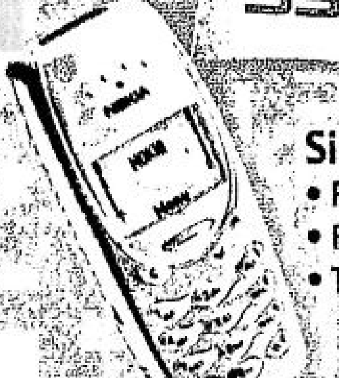

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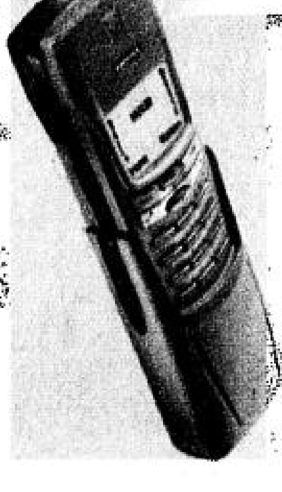

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Arts & Design

# Finally, state cultural manager will stand trial for destroying heritage

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STORY ON PAGE D3

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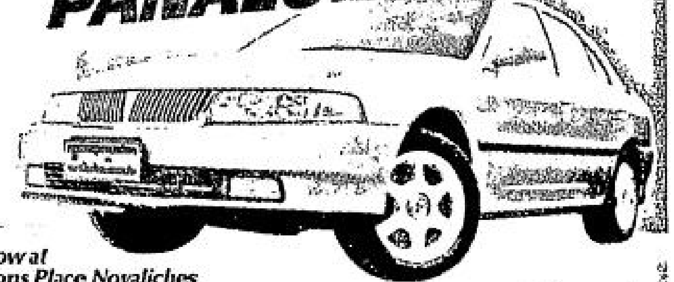

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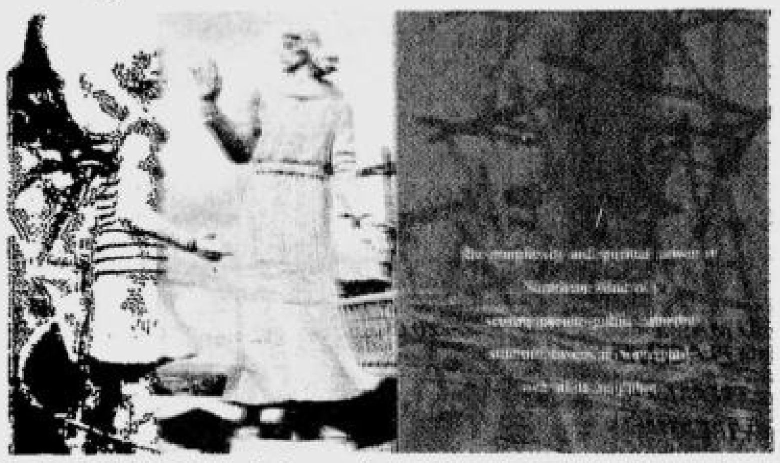
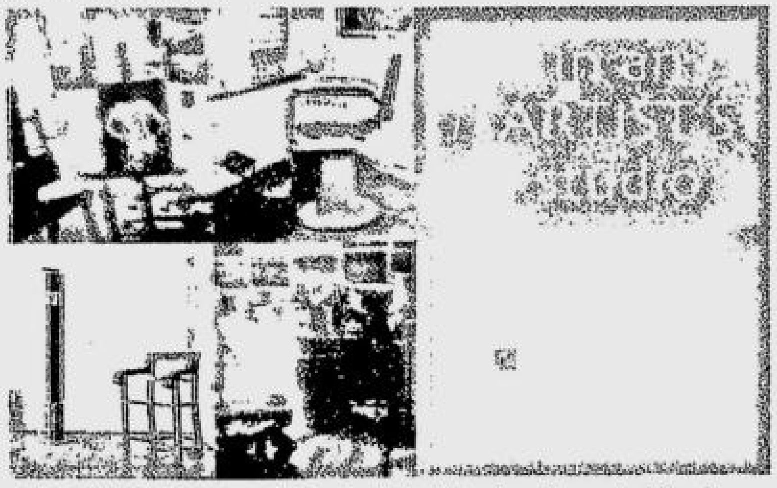
# Book showcases how artists dwell in art



**NAPOLEON** Abueva's larger-than-life sculptures in his pseudo-gothic cathedral



**CLOCKWISE** from top left: Sunlight filtering through Alfredo Roces' atelier in Sydney Australia; Danny Dalena's love for local culture—a barber's chair; Alfredo Roces' studio; Gus Albor's minimalist vignette

ANVIL Publishing Inc., National Book Store and Sta. Barbara Publishing Corp. Inc. announce the forthcoming release of their latest coffee-table book, "At Home with Filipino Art and Artists."

"At Home with Filipino Art and Artists" is not just about art and homes, but about art in the home. Culled from the archives of Design and Architecture magazine, the book will take you into the world of people for whom home is a place of work and a work of art itself. They make their peaceful hideaways from exotic locales to urban high-rises, and from faithfully restored historic old homes to modern spaces in suburban subdivisions.

Home may be an 18th-century stone house in Limeuil, Southern France; a studio in the large and sprawling family estate of a Filipino-American artist at The Creeks, East Hampton, New York; a pseudo-Gothic cathedral structure in Quezon City; or a Baguio-bred artist's home and studio in the hills with a Japanese inspired garden.

Home may also be a sun, sand and sea structure set on a huge rock in Puerto Galera, Palawan; something built at the Garingal National Park, Sydney, Australia; a multilevel house built on the side of an Antipolo hill; a highland architecture of bridges and huts amid the "laharscape" of Pampanga; an ancestral residence at the foot of Mt. Makiling, Pakil, Laguna; a high-rise condominium unit at Manila Bay; a renovated bungalow in suburban Paranaque; a cookie-cutter's house turned into a surreal enclave; a sculptor's pied-a-terre in Tagaytay overlooking Taal Lake; or a residence cum atelier in the heart of old Manila.

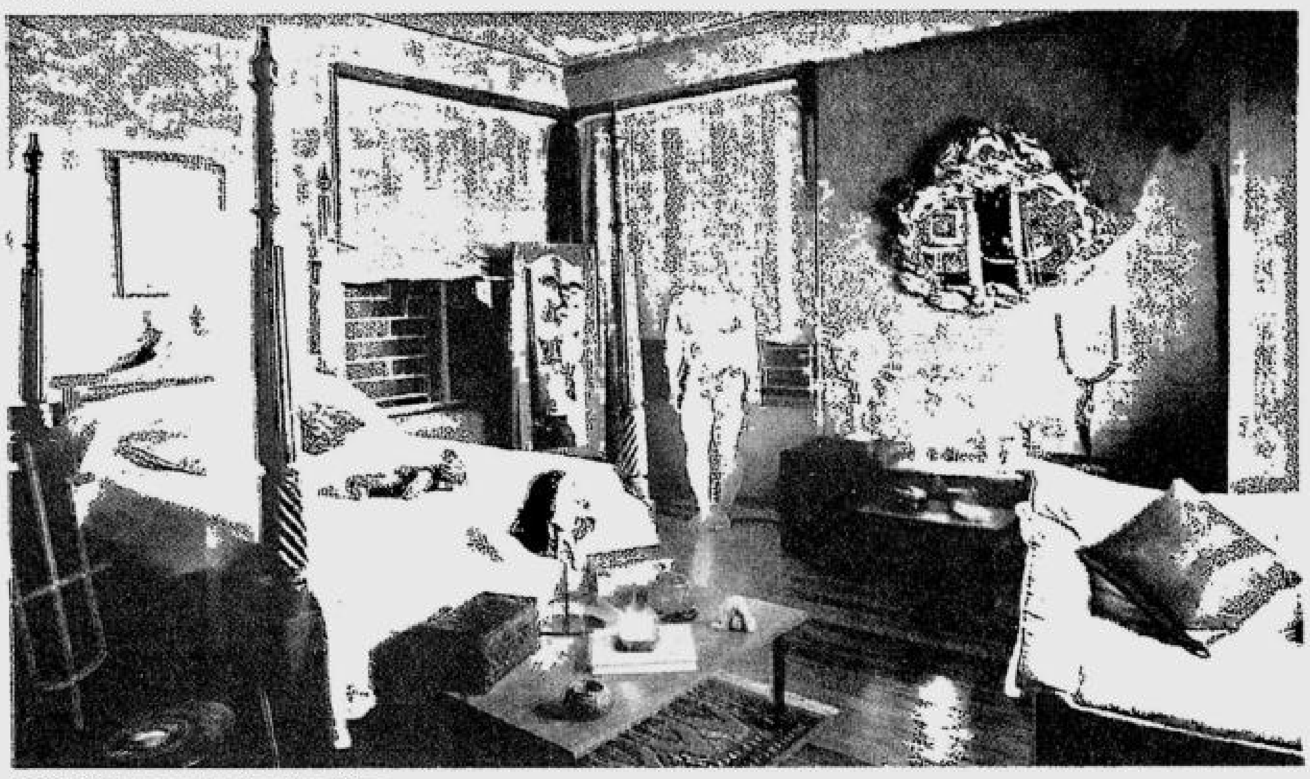
"At Home with Filipino Art and Artists" will engage readers with personal vignettes, both visual and textual. It celebrates the sacredness of an artist's private space. Author and artist Alfredo R. Roces sets the tone with an intimate description of his bushland home in Sydney, Australia.

Authors Mara Hermano and Opat Labrador Hermano explore the homes of artist and art patrons such as Annabel Alejandrino, Napoleon Abueva, Augusto Albor, Gabby Barredo, Ben Cabrera, Danny Dalena, Deither Korbanka, Lao Lianben, Alfredo Liongoren, Arturo Luz, Anita Magsaysay Ho, Jerry Elizalde Navarro, Ramon Orlina, Alfonso Ossorio, Impy Pilapil, Alfredo Roces, Marivic Rufino, Claude Tayag, Ofelia Gelvezon Tequi, Phyllis Zaballero, and collectors Silvana Diaz, Gilda Cordero Fernando, Jaime Laya, Jose Maria Trenias, Marivic Vasquez, Mariles and Peter von Brevern.

"At Home with Filipino Art and Artists" shows art need not be confined to museums and galleries. The book delights in rooms that continue to grow and mature with creative spirits behind them. Whether one is a serious collector, seasoned designer or simply interested in artistic disciplines, "At Home with Filipino Art and Artists" is the ultimate experience in living with art.

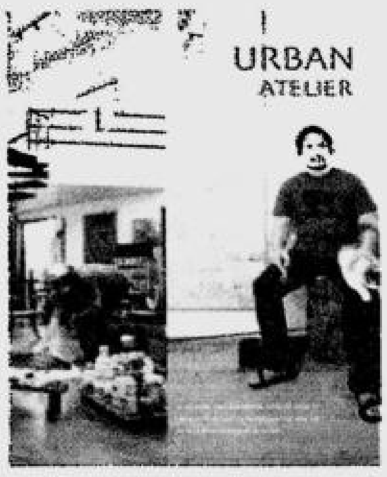
The book will be on sale at the Philippine Bookfair at the SM Megamall from Aug. 31-Sept. 8 and at all National Book Store outlets. For advance orders, please contact Amy of Santa Barbara Publishing Corp. at 531-2785, Lhorie of Anvil Publishing Inc. at 671-1899/671-9235.

**DANNY** Dalena, a child of Pakil, in a straw hat, loose camiseta de chino and wooden clogs, displays his artworks.

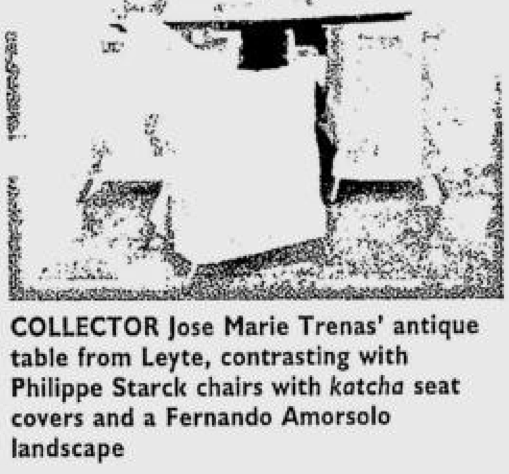


**SURREAL** room by Romina Diaz

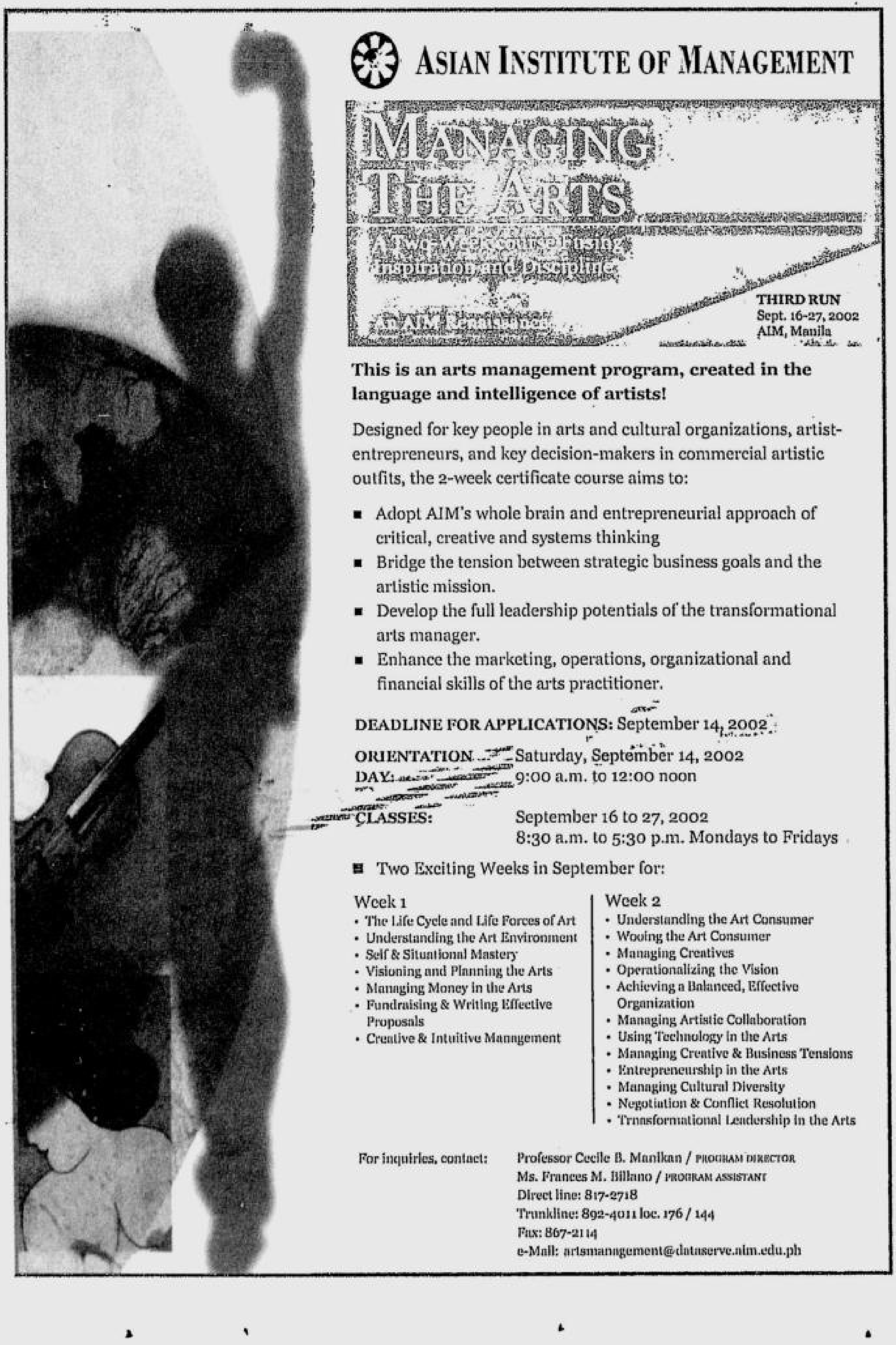
**MARIVIC** Rufino, water colorist and columnist, paints "Colourfields" landscapes in her Makati atelier.



**Gus Albor at home in his renovated studio.**



**COLLECTOR** Jose Marie Trenas' antique table from Leyte, contrasting with Philippe Starck chairs with *katcha* seat covers and a Fernando Amorsolo landscape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# Garcia at 101, Tapales and Soguilon at West

**VISUAL ARTS**

ABSTRACT artist Danilo Garcia's exhibit at Gallery 101, 2/L Kaimo Bldg., 101 Quezon Ave., Quezon Blvd., QC, consists of recent paintings in mixed media done predominantly in acrylic. Dubbed "God's Horizon (Artist Ism)," the works delve into both the physical and metaphysical realms of God's creation, the awesome sight of what lies beyond the earth's horizon. The exhibit closes on Sept. 30.

GEMO Tapales returns to the exhibition scene with "Subpoena" at the West Gallery, Art Walk, 4/L SM Megamall A, Mandaluyong City, Aug. 22-Sept. 3. Tapales pays tribute to his professors and the masters, for opening his eyes to different ways of seeing and creating. Call 634-1284.

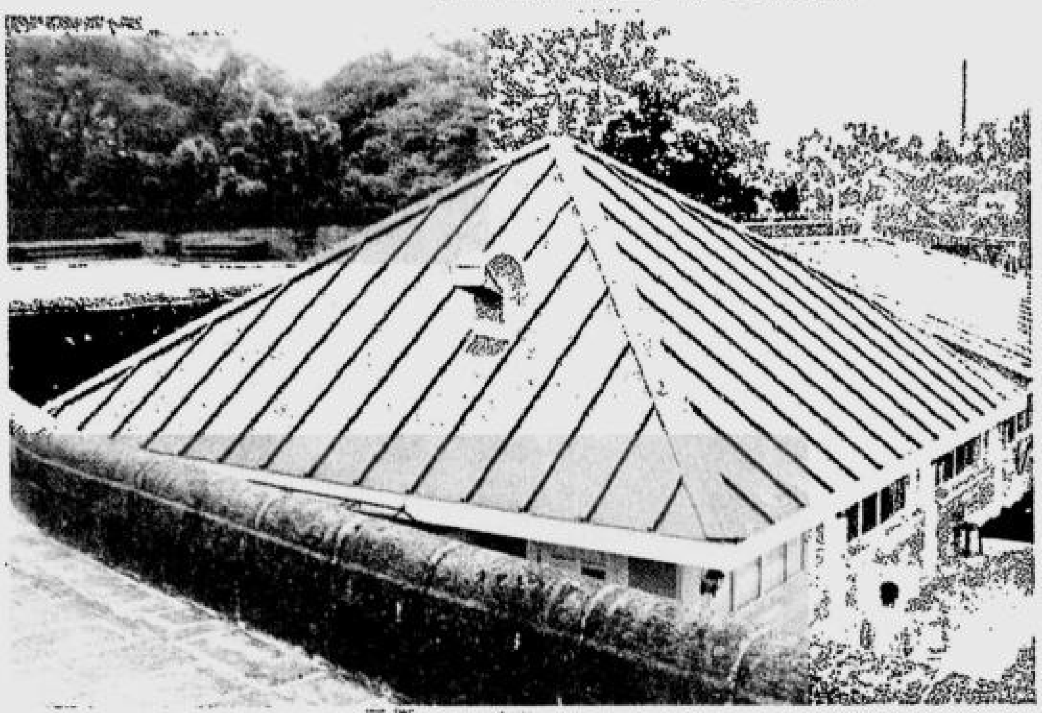
KRIS Soguilon will hold his second solo "Buhay-buhay" at the West Gallery in Glorietta (Ayala Center, Makati) on Aug. 29-Sept. 10. The works take liberal potshots at contemporary urban life, taking the cue from the manner in which photojournalism captures the immediate, but done in the visual idiom the artist has been known for—bold and highly expressive figural painting.

CANYON Wood Residential Resort in Laurel, Batangas, will hold a sketching session on Aug. 31 at its clubhouse lobby to mark its fifth year. Participating artists are Kit Ello, Loreto Racuya, William Yu and Jun Alfon, who will also exhibit their works for two weeks.

**BONG Espinosa's sixth one-man show titled "Mythical Feast" will open on Sept. 4 at the Linya Gallery, G&S Padilla Building, A. Bonifacio Avenue, Tibanga, Iligan City, and will run until Sept. 4.**

# Interior designers to meet

THE PHILIPPINE Institute of Interior Designers will hold its monthly meeting on Aug. 29, 5:30 p.m., at the Filomena Building (PIID Secretariat), Amorsolo Street, Makati City. All members are invited to attend as the board of directors will discuss the "Empowerment of the Interior Designers in the Philippines as it Moves Toward Globalization." Dez Bautista will discuss topics on Philippine art and its usage in contemporary setting. This month's meeting is sponsored by Distinctive Window Fashion. Call the secretariat office at 867-1403/1404.



**ALTHOUGH** the construction is on ground level, the new structure is not in the "Intramuros Style" prescribed by the Intramuros Building Code. The excavation for foundations of the new building may also undermine the structural integrity of the fortifications around it.

PHOTOS BY GREG DORRIS

# Finally, state cultural manager will stand trial for destroying heritage

## SPACED OUT

*Augusto F. Villalon*

WHO watches over the watchdogs of our heritage? It did not seem that a state heritage authority could be made to answer for his actions until Anna Maria Harper and Esperanza Gatbonton made the extraordinary move in July 2001 of filing, in behalf of the Heritage Conservation Society (HCS), a case against Intramuros administrator Dominador Ferrer for violating Presidential Decree 1616, the Intramuros Charter.

Harper and Gatbonton charged Ferrer with failing to enforce the charter, which states that no damage must be caused on the historic Intramuros walls. Notwithstanding that caveat, Ferrer allowed the permanent construction of restaurants and other entertainment establishments atop the walls that caused irreparable damage.

The structures were of a permanent nature, constructed from contemporary materials that had proved harmful to the ancient walls. The new construction methods were also not compatible with the traditional methods originally used to construct the Intramuros walls.

Holes drilled into the adobe were filled with concrete to support the new framing for the offending structures; they caused serious damage. It has been proven that acids contained in cement causes rapid deterioration when coming into contact with traditional walls constructed out of adobe (volcanic tuff) and lime mortar. Furthermore, the recent construction introduced new plumbing bored into the walls.

### Colombian example

It is not that old walls like those at Intramuros cannot accommodate new uses without any damage to the original structure. Restaurants, cafés and other recreation amenities have been set up in similar fortifications in other parts of the world.

Built only 70 years earlier than Intramuros, the venerable walls of Cartagena de Indias in Colombia, a Unesco World Heritage Site, are a popular evening promenade where large umbrellas shade tables temporarily set on the walls. Under the shades, locals enjoy the seascape and the balmy tropical air. Precooked food is brought in and served in outdoor restaurants on top of the walls. Bars are set up to serve drinks. No washing is done on the premises. At the end of the evening everything is brought down from the walls and set up once again the following night.

Unlike what has been done in Intramuros, all structures in the Colombian walls are temporary. The historic fortifications of Cartagena de Indias are free from damage.

In contrast, what went up on the Intramuros walls was far from temporary. In response to the illegal construction, Harper and Gatbonton charged Ferrer with violating national cultural protection laws, specifically PD 1616.

However, the Ombudsman chose to prosecute the graft angle and charged Ferrer for violating the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act. In a decision issued last June, the Ombudsman found prima facie evidence of Ferrer's criminal liability for leasing spaces within the Intramuros walls to a private developer without the benefit of a public bidding. Ferrer appealed this decision and holds on to his office while awaiting a final resolution from Malacañang.

### Strong signal

The Ombudsman case does not uphold PD 1616. But attacking it from the graft angle still manages to achieve the same result. It sends the strong signal that the protection of our national heritage is non-negotiable.

This brings home a sore point raised in the recent public consultation sponsored by the HCS in support of the landmarks law that the Society proposes. The issue was raised that so far nobody in the Philippines has been prosecuted for violation of cultural protection laws.

Does this indicate a failure by government prosecutors, the Solicitor General's Office and the Office of the Ombudsman, to fully comprehend the need for punitive action for the destruction of heritage?

Could this be part of a legal reluctance to impose fines and imprisonment for the destruction of a historic place? The willful destruction of heritage is certainly equally as serious a crime as graft, and a precedent must be set.

Last month, the third division of the Supreme Court dismissed Ferrer's petition that questioned the decision of the Sandiganbayan to arraign him. The petition was clearly a move to delay the inevitable. Ferrer will now stand trial.

The Filipino people are the collective owners of the national heritage. The people should let heritage managers know that they are responsible to the nation in protecting the heritage and passing it on to the next generation. This trial will be a legal first. Although the charges are for graft, the case really is about the protection of our cultural heritage.

*E-mail the author at afv@pacific.net.ph*

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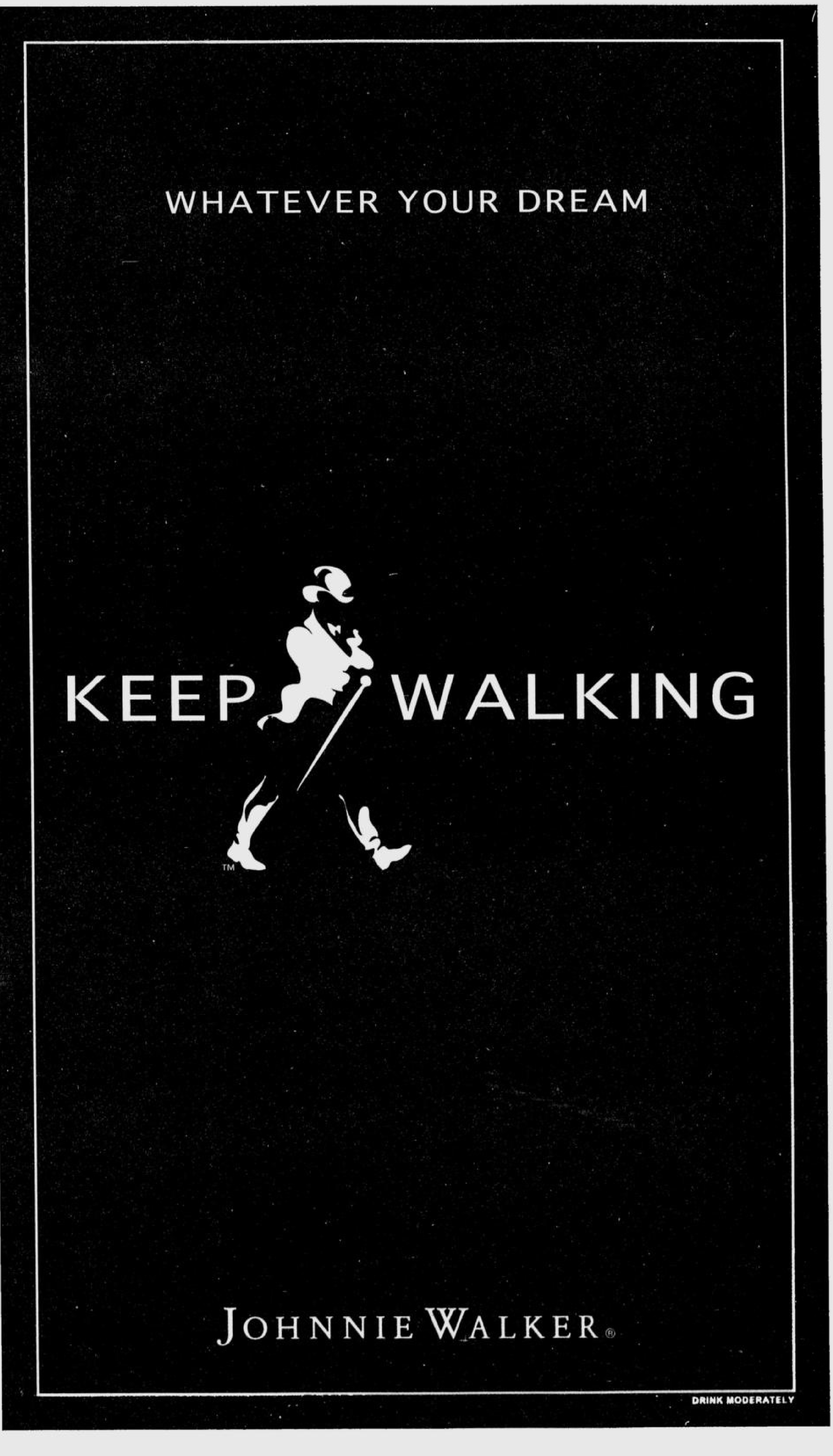


TRIPLE V 25

**Apple Fontanila,** Account Manager

**Aries Espinosa,** Editor

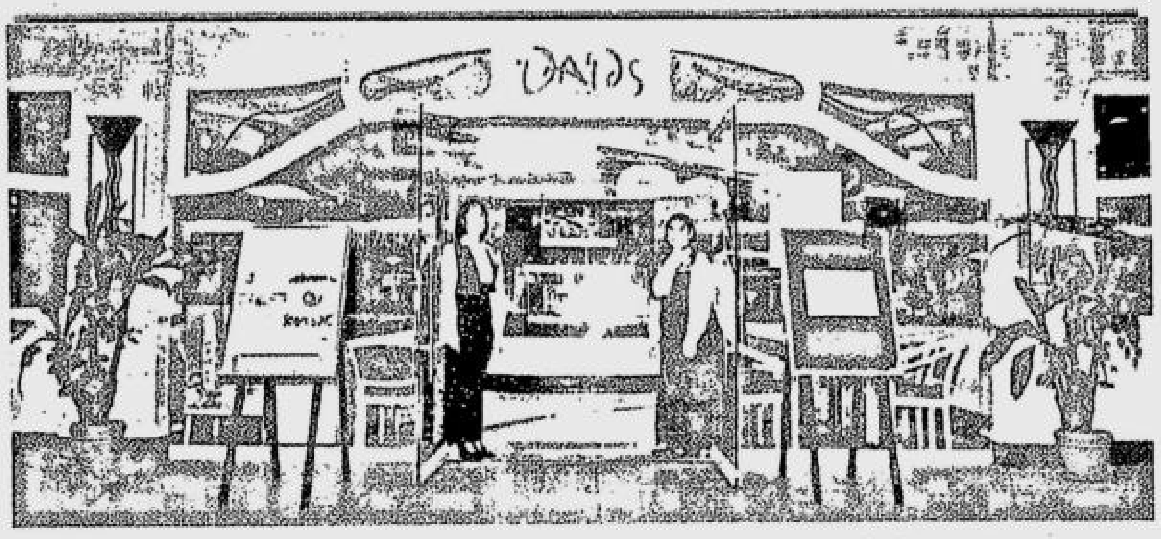
## THEN AND NOW

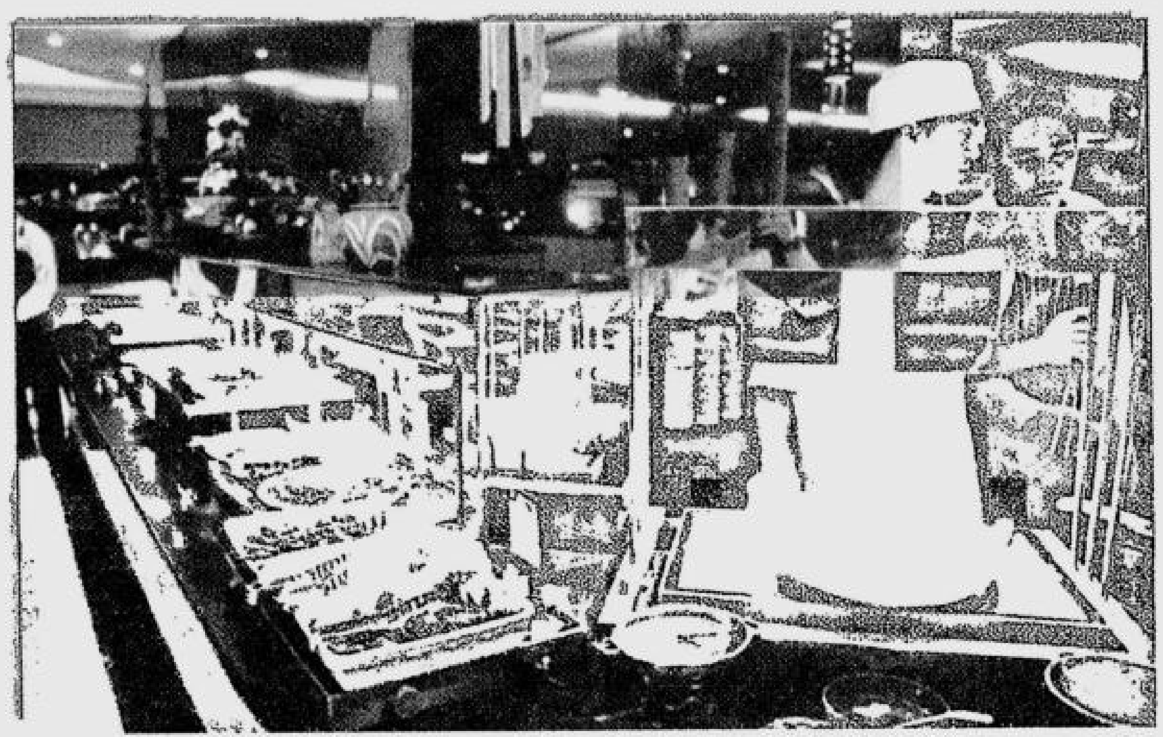
# Changing the way we take our food

By Raquel Gomez

**IN THE LATE 1970s, it introduced guests to a more "personal" and "comfortable" level of dining experience through the use of bare hands. Thus, Kamayan was born.**

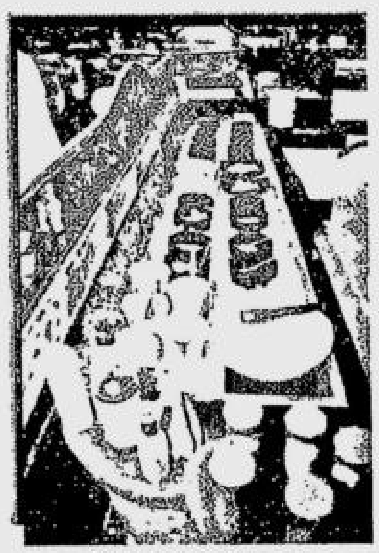
PHOTOS BY JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN





**THE GATHERING** of dishes representing the widest choices of Filipino, Japanese, Oriental, American and Continental cuisine in one area radically changed the fastfood industry.

> 'Most of our guests keep coming back since the 1970s and the children that were with them then are now grown up'



In the 1980s, Triple-V accommodated the growing number of patrons of Japanese food by setting up an odor-free, brightly lit Japanese restaurant that could seat 400 guests. Thus, Saisaki was born.

In the early 1990s, Triple-V introduced a breakthrough in fastfood dining—gathering newly cooked dishes representing the widest choices of Filipino, Japanese, Oriental, American and Continental cuisine in just one area and radically changing the fastfood industry. Thus, Triple V Express was born.

Soon after that, Triple V opened a restaurant in honor of fathers. The value and the importance of not wasting the food, a "fatherly admonition," was promoted by the restaurant through the famous "No-Left-Over Buffet 50% off rate." Thus. Dads was born.

Dads became the home of the eat-all-you-can concept and started the bountiful buffet and the "best steaks in town" craze.

For 25 years, since it opened its first restaurant- Kamayan- on August 26, 1977, Triple V has constantly introduced novelties and innovations in our concept of fine dining.

Triple V, which many confuse for the initials of Vic-Vic Villavicencio, company president, actually refers to the founders Villavicencio, Violeta Baltazar (Vic-Vic's mother-in-law) and the late Valentine Eduque (Vic-Vic's uncle).

Vic-Vic is often described by friends as a gourmet with a heart of a businessman. "Mr. Villavicencio really likes food, his whole family (does), in fact. Even in his younger days, he would cook or his Mom would cook and he would sell the food to his classmates. With his relatives, Vic-Vic came up with the idea of a restaurant where utensils aren't used. That's the original concept behind Kamayan, Triple V's very first restaurant," narrates Marcos Loste, vice president for operations.

Key to the appeal and success of Triple V restaurants— apart from the innovations—is maintaining the quality of food and service.

"Basically it's all about the good food," says Loste. "We ensure that the food we serve is of top quality. We see to it that the service we provide is personalized. Once a guest comes out of our restaurant, he or she is greatly satisfied. And we always keep that personalized relationship with our guest."

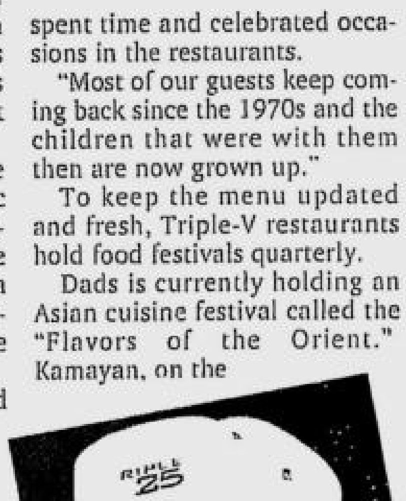
Just how personalized is the service? Loste says Triple-V diners include generations of families who have continuously spent time and celebrated occasions in the restaurants.

**MARCOS R. Loste:** 'we optimistically look forward to another 25 years'

"Most of our guests keep coming back since the 1970s and the children that were with them then are now grown up."

To keep the menu updated and fresh, Triple-V restaurants hold food festivals quarterly.

Dads is currently holding an Asian cuisine festival called the "Flavors of the Orient." Kamayan, on the other hand, is holding "Paborito Noon, Paborito Ngayon," which showcases all-time favorites, including the ever-famous perfect *lechon de leche*. At Saisaki, enjoy an equally exciting and sumptuous meat festival, with their latest offering, the "Niku Matsuri."



**ANNIVERSARY** souvenirs

Dads' concept of smorgasbord dining was inspired by a restaurant in Australia which rewarded guests who finished their meal up to the last grain.

"We started the 'No-Left-Over Buffet' promo at Dads in Megamall in 1993. Somehow Filipinos welcomed the concept and the discipline of finishing their food."

Dads Megamall offers lunch buffet at only P360 per person Mondays to Thursdays and P450 per person Fridays to Sundays. Dads Alabang and Dads Glorietta's lunch buffet is at P360 per person Mondays to Fridays and at P450 per person Saturdays and Sundays. Daily dinner buffet can be had for only P450 per person. Dads Megamall offers the Crossover Buffet, which is a combination of Dads and Kamayan buffet at the same lunch and dinner buffet price.

Avail yourself of the Triple Best Buffet (a combination of Dads, Kamayan and Saisaki Buffet) at Dads Glorietta and Dads Alabang Town Center for only P395 Monday to Friday lunch, and P495 Saturday and Sunday lunch. Daily triple best dinner buffet can be had for only P495.

The "Crossover" and "Triple Best Buffet" promos allow you to enjoy the dishes not only from Dads, but from Kamayan and Saisaki, too.

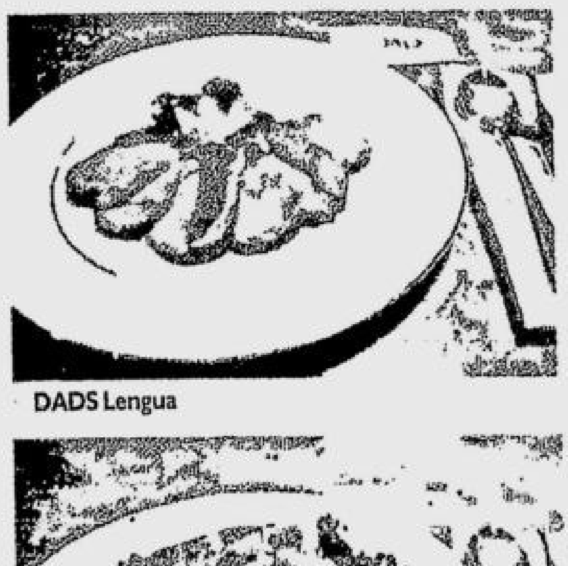
As a token of appreciation to its guests on its 25th anniversary, Triple-V will also give patrons special silver souvenirs: keychains, calculator clips, notepads, fans and pens. With the 'Under The Chair' game, guests can find souvenir stubs under their chair. The 'Frequency Card,' on the other hand, gives dine-in buffet guests the chance to win free buffet.

The Triple-V restaurants have also changed its 'look' to adapt to the demands of the changing times. Interiors of the restaurants have been updated. Kamayan, although still having the old Vigan look, now has warm colors and trim furniture. At Saisaki, the chairs and tables are now sleek and modern. And now Dads, too, adopted colors easy for the eyes such as light green and peach.

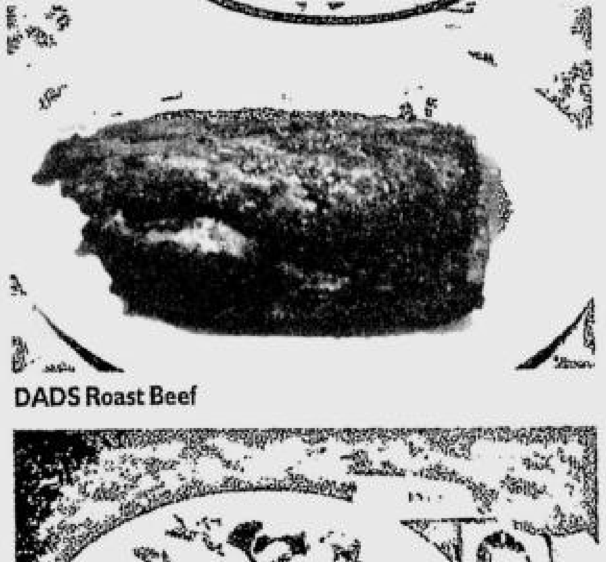
Loste, who started as a bartender and worked his way up, considers Triple-V his second family. The anniversary, he says, will signal the start of the company's goal to reach another 25 years.

"The industry is so different now, but we optimistically look forward to another 25 years."

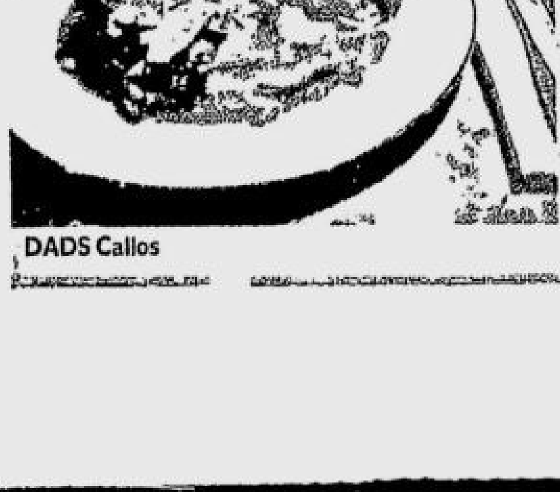
DADS



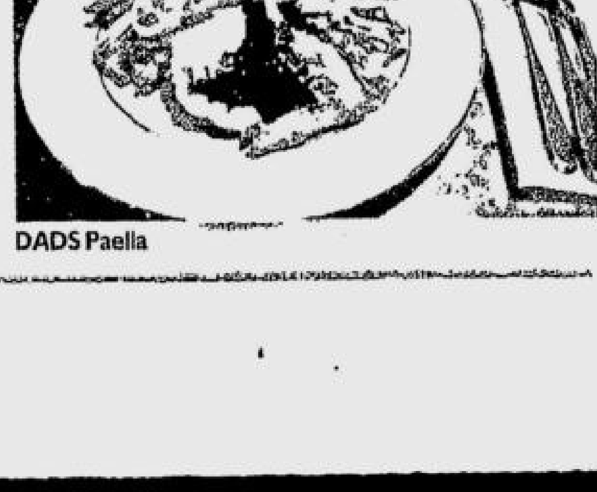
**DADS** Lengua



**DADS** Roast Beef



**DADS** Callos



**DADS** Paella

DADS P200
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## THEN AND NOW

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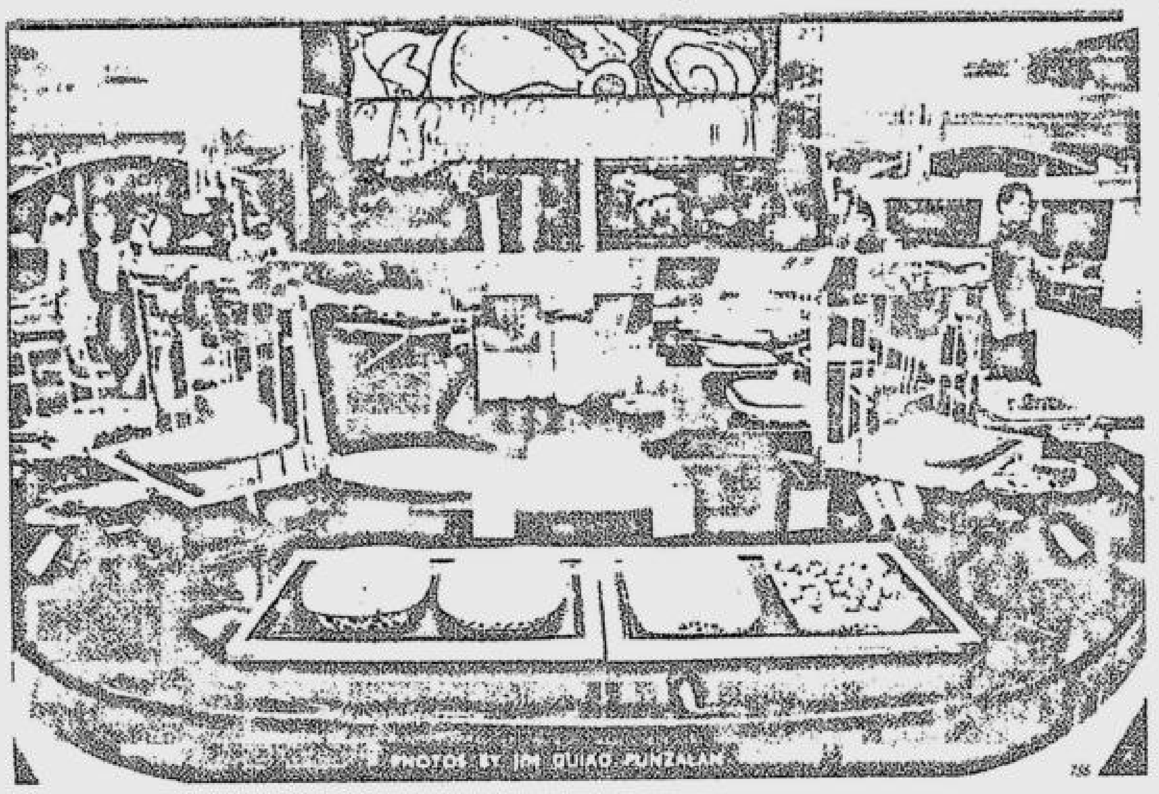
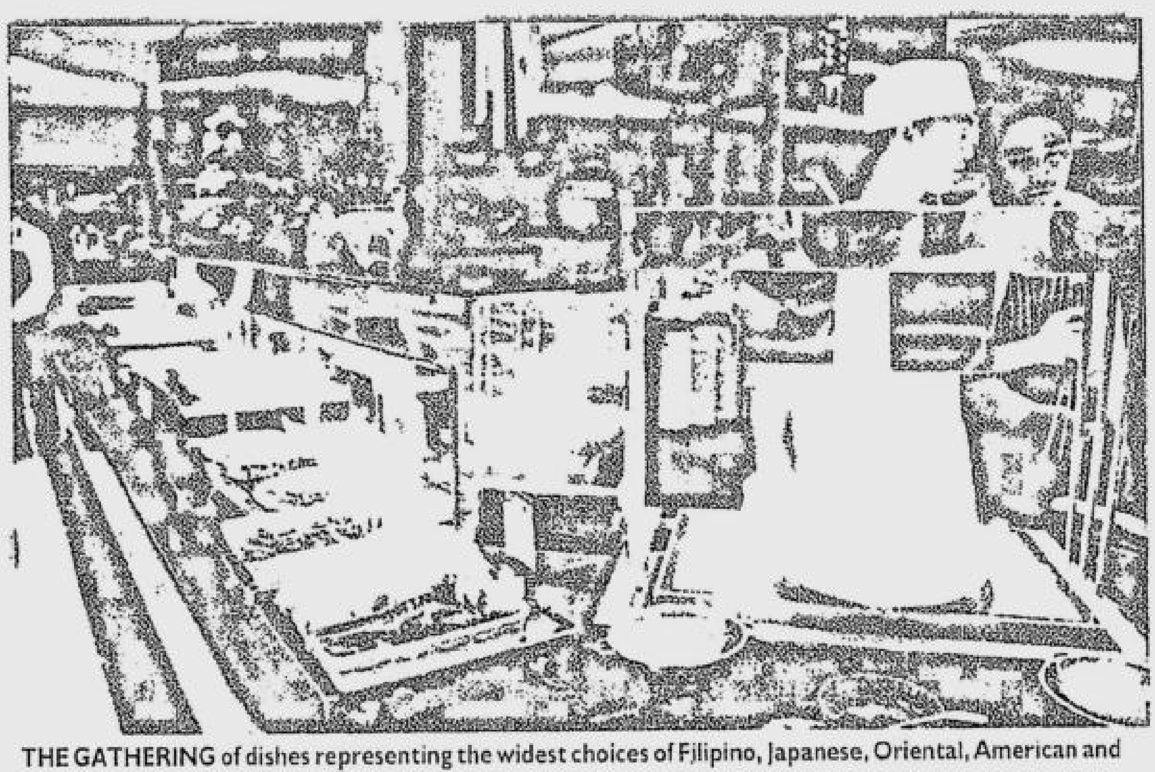
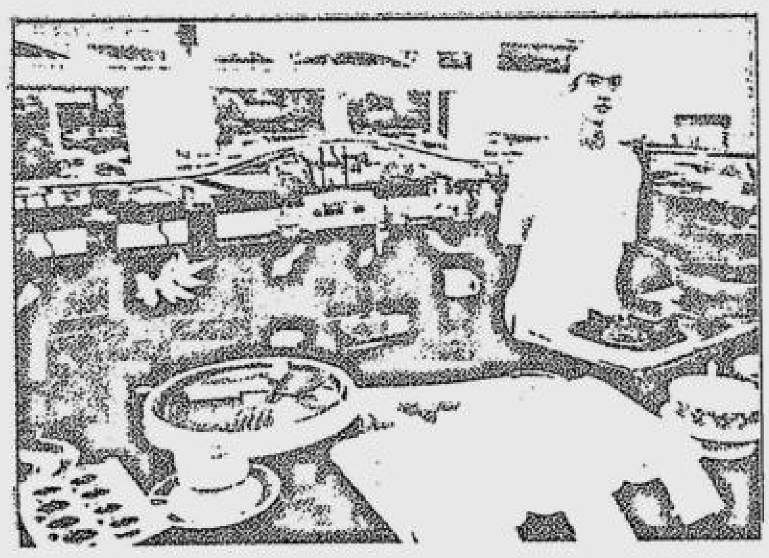
By Raquel Gomez

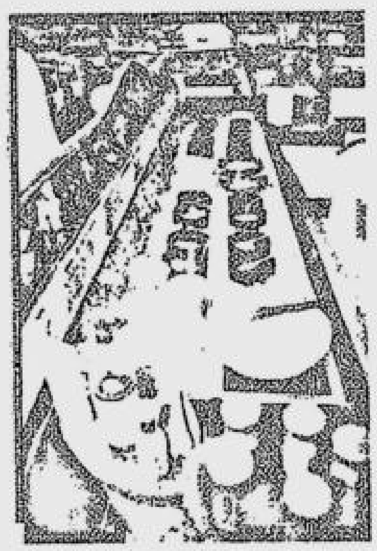
**IN THE LATE 1970s, it introduced guests to a more "personal" and "comfortable" level of dining experience through the use of bare hands. Thus, Kamayan was born.**

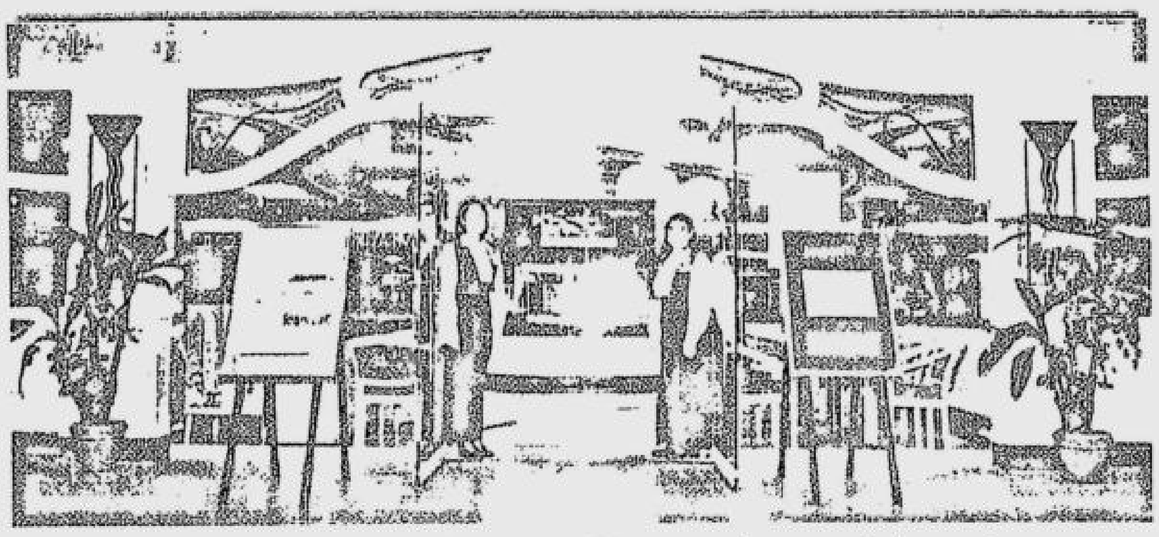

PHOTOS BY JM GUIAO-PUNZALAN


**THE GATHERING** of dishes representing the widest choices of Filipino, Japanese, Oriental, American and Continental cuisine in one area radically changed the fastfood industry.

'Most of our guests keep coming back since the 1970s and the children that were with them then are now grown up'







In the 1980s, Triple-V accommodated the growing number of patrons of Japanese food by setting up an odor-free, brightly lit Japanese restaurant that could seat 400 guests. Thus, Saisaki was born.

In the early 1990s, Triple-V introduced a breakthrough in fastfood dining: gathering newly cooked dishes representing the widest choices of Filipino, Japanese, Oriental, American and Continental cuisine in just one area and radically changing the fastfood industry. Thus Triple V Express was born.

Soon after that, Triple V opened a restaurant in honor of fathers. The value and the importance of not wasting the food, a "fatherly admonition," was promoted by the restaurant through the famous "No Left-Over Buffet 50% off rate." Thus Dads was born.

Dads became the home of the eat-all-you-can concept and started the bountiful buffet and the "best steaks in town" craze.

For 25 years since it opened its first restaurant Kamayan on August 26, 197[illegible] Triple V has constantly introduced novelties and innovations [illegible] of fine dining.

Triple V which [illegible] the initia[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Vic Vi[illegible] [illegible] farme[illegible] [illegible] man. Mr [illegible] [illegible] famil[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Mom [illegible] and [illegible] the food [illegible] mates. With his relatives Vic Vi[illegible] came up with the idea of a restaurant where utensils aren't used. That's the original concept behind Kamayan, Triple V's very first restaurant," narrates Marcos Loste, vice president for operations.

Key to the appeal and success of Triple V restaurants— apart from the innovations—is maintaining the quality of food and service.

"Basically it's all about the good food," says Loste. "We ensure that the food we serve is of top quality. We see to it that the service we provide is personalized. Once a guest comes out of our restaurant, he or she is greatly satisfied. And we always keep that personalized relationship with our guest."

Just how personalized is the service? Loste says Triple-V diners include generations of families who have continuously spent tim[illegible] and [illegible]orated [illegible]sions in the restaurant.

MARCOS R. Loste: 'we optimistically look forward to another 25 years'

"Most of our guests [illegible] coming back since the 1970s and the children [illegible] with [illegible] then are now grown up."

[illegible] up the m[illegible] update[illegible] Triple [illegible] restaurant [illegible] quarterl[illegible] holdin[illegible] [illegible] "Flavors [illegible] Kamayan on the other hand, holding "Paborito Noon Paborito Ngayon," which showcases all-time favorites including the ever famous perfect *lechon de leche*. At Saisaki, enjoy an equally exciting and sumptuous meat festival, with their latest offering, the "Niku Matsuri."

ANNIVERSARY souvenirs

Dads' concept of smorgasbord dining was inspired by a restaurant in Australia which rewarded guests who finished their meal up to the last grain.

"We started the 'No-Left-Over Buffet' promo at Dads in Megamall in 1993. Somehow Filipinos welcomed the concept and the discipline of finishing their food."

Dads Megamall offers lunch buffet at only P360 per person Mondays to Thursdays and P450 per person Fridays to Sundays. Dads Alabang and Dads Glorietta's lunch buffet is at P360 per person Mondays to Fridays and at P450 per person Saturdays and Sundays. Daily dinner buffet can be had for only P450 per person. Dads Megamall offers the Crossover Buffet, which is a combination of Dads and Kamayan buffet at the same lunch and dinner buffet price.

[illegible] the Triple Be[illegible] Buffet [illegible] combination of Dad[illegible] and Saisaki Buffet [illegible] Glorietta and Dads Alabang [illegible] Center for only [illegible] Mond[illegible] Friday [illegible] P495 [illegible] Saturday and Sunday [illegible] triple best dinner [illegible] had for only P49[illegible]

The [illegible] Tripl[illegible] Best Bu[illegible] [illegible] Da[illegible] Sa[illegible] [illegible] app[illegible] [illegible] Wit[illegible] [illegible] unde[illegible] quent[illegible] [illegible] buffe[illegible] [illegible] having [illegible] Th[illegible] [illegible] have a[illegible] adapt[illegible] chan[illegible] the [illegible] urant [illegible] updated. Kam[illegible] [illegible] still having the [illegible] look now has [illegible] olo[illegible] and trim furniture. At Saisaki the chairs and table[illegible] [illegible] sleek and modern [illegible] Dads to [illegible] adopted colors [illegible] for the [illegible] such as light [illegible] and peach.

Loste, who started as a bartender and worked his way up, considers Triple-V his second family. The anniversary, he says, will signal the start of the company's goal to reach another 25 years.

"The industry [illegible] different now, but we optimistically look forward to another 25 years."

DADS

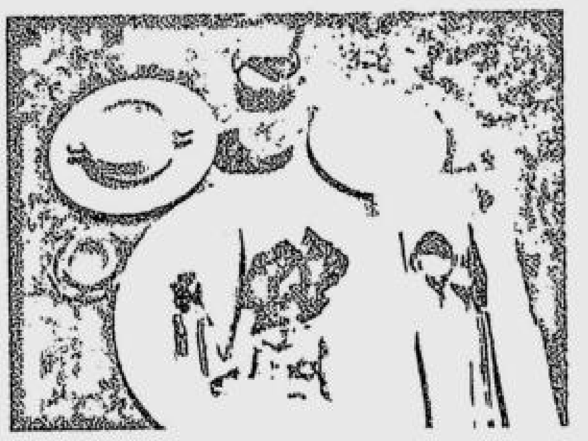
**DADS** Lengua

**DADS** Roast Beef

DADS P200

**DADS** Callos

**DADS** Paella



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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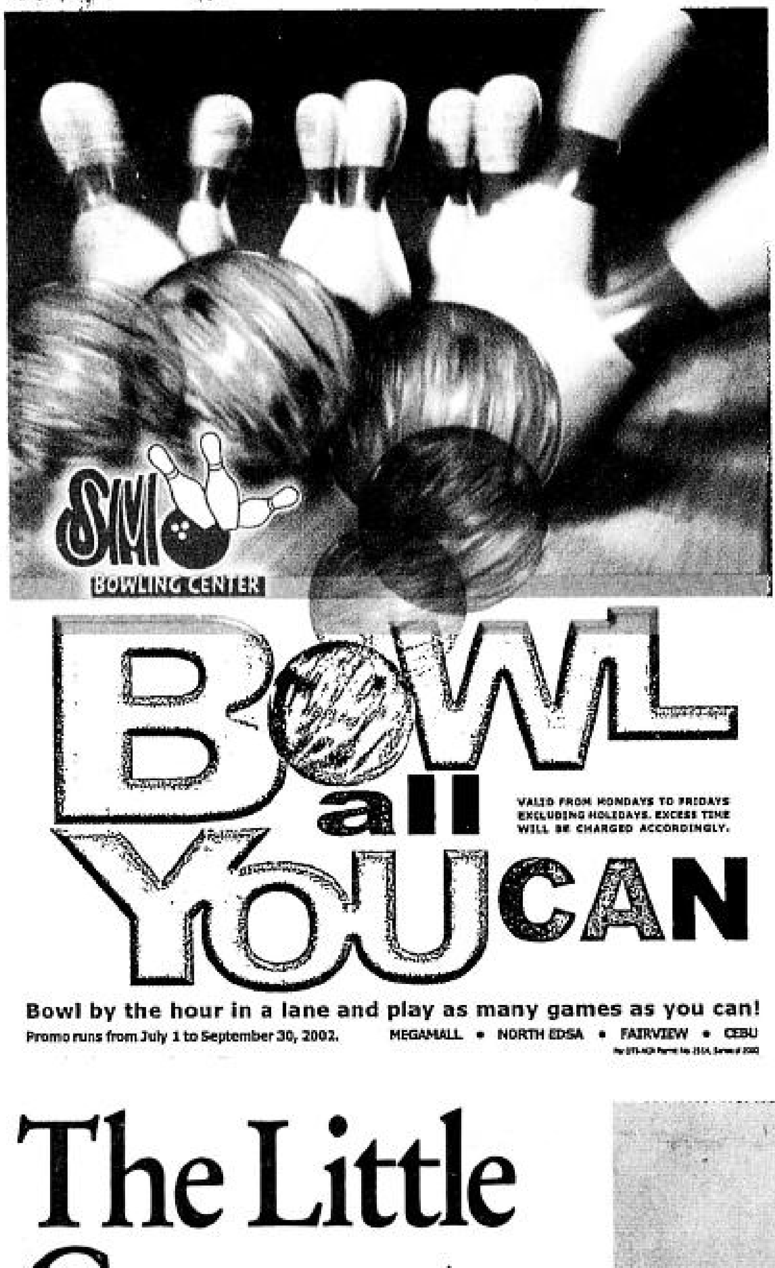
LIFESTYLE

REYNALDO Reyes

## Reynaldo Reyes and Raul Sunico shine in piano season

Story on page E4



VALID FROM MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS. EXCESS TIME WILL BE CHARGED ACCORDINGLY.

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Promo runs from July 1 to September 30, 2002. MEGAMALL • NORTH EDSA • FAIRVIEW • CEBU

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AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2002 CLASS SCHEDULE

August 28, Wednesday, 9-12 am BAKESHOP FAVOURITES Lenguas de Gato, Soft Mamon, Maple Pecan Cinnamon Rolls, Taisan, Apple Upside Down Cake P 800

August 28, Wednesday, 2-5pm Special ITALIAN PIAZZA with Chef MAURO ARJONA Cold Smoked Salmon Pizza, Pork Saltimbocca, Fettuccini with Prawns and Blue Cheese, Ossobucco, Tiramisu P 1,500

August 29, Thursday, 2-5pm BAKING 3 Toblerone Cake, Cream Puffs, Eclairs, Profiteroles, Chocolate Mousse, Creamy Croissant and Apple Pudding, Empanadas con Camote y Pina. P 1,200

August 31, Saturday, 9am-1pm BASIC BAKING 1 A HANDS ON experience for students to learn the basics of baking from the proper way of measuring ingredients to the presentation of the finished product. Chiffon Cake Coffee Crunch Cake, Sponge Cake, Strawberry and White Chocolate Trifle, Rich Butter Cake, Pie Crust: American Apple Pie P 1,200

August 31, Saturday, 2-6pm BASIC BAKING 2 Baking with Frostings and Icings Brownie Cake with Chocolate Sour Cream Frosting, Apple Walnut Cake with Creamy Caramel Frosting, Chocolate Decadent Cake with Chocolate Fudge Icing and Caramel Sauce, Maple Walnut Cake with Fluffy White Frosting P 1,200

September 4, Wednesday, 9-12nn BROWNIES GALORE Chocolate Cheesecake Brownies, Cappuccino Brownies, Kahlua Brownies, Chocolate Fudge Brownies, White Chocolate Pecan Brownies P 1,200

September 4, Wednesday, 2-5pm ASIAN COOKING 1 Hananese Chicken Rice, Vietnamese Spring Rolls, Spicy Kangkong, Chili Crab, Claypot Chicken Rice, Peking Candied Apples P 1,200

September 5, Thursday, 9-12nn THAI COOKING 1 with Chef WINNAI KHAROMRUEN and SYLVIA CANCIO Tom Kha Gai, Tom Yum Goong, Phad Thai Noodles, Steamed Lapu-lapu, Thai Barbecue (Chicken, Pork and Squid), Spicy Squid Salad, Flaming Seafood Curry P 1,200

September 5, Thursday, 2-5pm THAI COOKING 2 Glass Noodle Salad, Bagoong Rice, Catfish Salad, Thai Kangkong, Shrimp Pancake, Century Egg Salad, Mango with Sticky Rice P 1,200

September 6, Friday, 9-12 am THAI COOKING 3 Pandan Chicken, Thai Chicken Curry, Beef Curry, Khanom Chine, Papaya Salad, Green Mango Salad, Pineapple Rice, Poh Pioh (Thai Springrolls) P 1,200

September 6, Friday, 2-5 pm COOKING 1 Sukiyaki, Special Italian Lasagna, Bangus Espanola, Mango Float P 800

September 9, Monday, 10 am – 3 pm BREAD MAKING 1 Pan de Sal, Ensaimada Especial (w/ Cheese & Ube Filling), Dinner Rolls, Pear Walnut Bread P 1,200

September 11, Wednesday, 9 am-1pm BAKING 6 For Chocolate Lovers! French Chocolate Cake, Black Forest Cake, Churros con Chocolate, Austrian Chocolate Cake P 1,200

September 11, Wednesday, 2-5pm Very special dishes by Chef Mauro Arjona Pan Fried Foie Gras with Raspberry Honey Sauce, Chicken Mushroom Soup, Lapu Lapu Salmon Prawns Roulade in Saffron Sauce, Scallops with Gambas Sauce and Arugula Salad, White Chocolate Creme P 1,500

September 12, Thursday, 10am-2pm BAKING 8 Elegant Desserts Hazelnut and Tangerine Tiramisu, Mango Napoleon, Individual Baked Alaska, Capuccino Brownies with White Chocolate Espresso Sauce P 1,200

September 13, Friday, 10 am – 2 pm FRUITCAKES Traditional Fruitcake, Semolina Fruitcake P 2, 200

September 18, Wednesday, 9-12nn ASIAN COOKING 2 Pie Tee (Appetizer), Chicken Curry, Red Curried Mussels over Noodles, Grilled Beef with Grapes and Mint Salad Satay, Takoh (Thai Coconut Custard) P 1,200

September 18, Wednesday, 1-5pm BREAD MAKING 2 Croissants, Carrot Bread, Raisin Bread, Gruyere Garlic Bread, Banana Bread P 1,200

September 20, Friday, 2-5pm COOKING 2 Bacolod Inasal, Paella Bicolana, Long Canneloni, Mango Batabalua P 850

September 21, Saturday, 9-12nn BARS and COOKIES Mississippi Mudcake Bars, Russian Tea Cookies, Chocolate Chip Cookies, Chocolate Crinkles, Lemon Squares 1,000

DIMSUM and CHINESE PASTRY Classes with HONG KONG CHEFS:

September 3, Tuesday, 9-12nn Dimsum 1: Spareribs Steamed with Black Beans and Chili (Taosi), Steamed Dumpling with Coriander/ Pork/ Shrimp, Glutinous Rice (Malagkit) Steamed Roll (Sio Pao Dough), Famous Hong Kong "Yum Cha" Chicken Feet, Lotus Seed Steamed Pao (Lin Yong Pao) P 1,500

September 7, Saturday, 9-12nn Dimsum 2: Steamed Beancurd Skin Stuffed with Bamboo Shoots/ Shrimp/ Pork and Oyster Sauce, (Kut Chai Steamed Pao) Steamed Chinese Bread with Chives and Shrimp, Chinese Steamed Vanilla Cake (Ma-Lai-Go), Hong Kong Favorite Deep Fried Shrimp Dumpling, Deep Fried Spring Roll with Taro and Shrimp and Pork (Taro Lumpia) P 1,500

September 10, Tuesday, 9-12 nn Dimsum 3: Steamed Chicken Parceled with Chinese Mushroom and Ham, Children Favorite Steamed Beef Ball with Water Chesnuts, Steamed Baby Squid with Garlic, Baked Chinese Custard with Red Mongo, Pan Fried Beancurd Skin Stuffed with Chinese Mushroom and Shrimp P 1,500

September 14, Saturday, 9-12 nn Dimsum 4: Steamed Baby Squid with Satay Sauce, Steamed Bread with Chinese Cabbage (Petchay) and Shrimp and Pork, Sticky Rice Steamed with Chinese Mushroom in Lotus Leaf, Deep Fried Won Ton with Sweet and Sour Dip, Chinese Deep Fried Sweet Glutinous Bun with Sesame Seed (Buchi) P 1,500

CHINESE CUISINE with our HONG KONG CHEFS:

September 3, Tuesday, 1:30 – 4:30 pm Chinese Cuisine 1: Famous Hong Kong Hot and Sour Bisque (Soup), Royal Prawns Steamed with Garlic, Fried Fillet of Gualupa (Lapu Lapu) with Fresh Tomato Sauce, Braised Chicken with Taro in Clay Pot, Bitter Melon (Ampalaya) Saute with Fluffy Egg P 1,500

September 7, Saturday, 1:30 – 4:30 pm Chinese Cuisine 2: Sliced Beef and Fresh Tomato Broth, Royal Prawns Panfried with Superior Soy Sauce, Deep Fried Fresh Gualupa Fillet accompanied with a Creamy Sweet Corn Sauce, Young Green Cabbage (Taiwanese Petchay) Saute with Garlic, Special Chopped Chicken Saute from Law Ding, Steamed Egg with Chinese Vermicelli (Sotanghon) and Dried Shrimp P 1,500

September 10, Tuesday, 1:30 – 4:30 pm Chinese Cuisine 3: Famous Cold Sliced Seaweeds (Jellyfish) with Century Egg, Saute Small Prawns with Fresh Chili and Spicy Salt, Steamed Slice Pork with Preserved White Raddish, The Famous Vegetarian Delica, Chinese Black Mushroom and Young Bamboo Shoots Saute in Oyster Sauce, Beef Saute with Fluffy Scrambled Egg, Broccoli Cooked with Fresh Ginger Cubes P 1,500

September 14, Saturday, 1:30 – 4:30 pm Chinese Cuisine 4: Cream Soup with Sweet Corn and Ground Chicken, The Fantastic Frog Legs Saute with Black Soy Beans and Chili (Taosi), Slight Deep Fried Young Fresh Squid, Grandmother's Dried Fish Steamed with Ground Pork, Chinese Broccoli (Kai Lan) Cooked in a Chicken Broth, Steamed Fresh Japanese Beancurd with Superior Soy Sauce P 1,500

September 17, Tuesday, 1:30 – 4:30pm Chinese Cuisine 5: Cold Spicy Sliced Seaweed (Jellyfish), Juliennes of Carrot and Bellpepper in Salada, Deep Fried Pork Spareribs Braised in "King Toh" Style, Braised Beancurd with Vegetables in Clay Pot, A Wonderful Vegetarian Dish, Steamed Eel with Sliced Ginger and Spring Onion, Chinese Vermicelli (Sotanghon) Cooked with Dried Shrimp and Chinese Cabbage (Baguio Petchay) (Half Soup, Half Sauce), The Cantonese Omelet with Ground Pork and Preserved White Raddish in a Tortilla Style P 1,500

September 21, Saturday, 1:30 – 4:30pm Chinese Cuisine 6: Seafood Bisque with Beancurd and White Egg, Pork Spareribs Steamed with Black Soy Beans and Fresh Chili, Sliced Sirloin Beef Saute in Oyster Sauce, Chinese Vermicelli (Sotanghon) Stewed with Dried Shrimp and Vegetables, Braised Galupa's Head with Chinese Mushroom, Bitter Melon Saute with Garlic P 1,500

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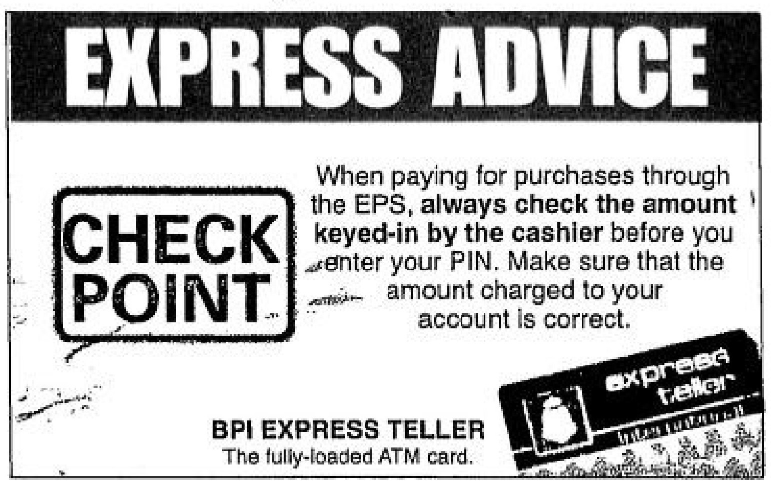

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# The Little Gym gets bigger

The Little Gym provides the children with a fun, safe, positive environment helping them develop not only physically, but also mentally.

NOTHING IN THE WORLD CAN bring more joy to parents than to see their children develop their self-esteem while they grow into healthy and happy individuals. At The Little Gym, kids are nurtured and taught new things and skills while they're allowed to indulge in play—the purest form of expression and learning.

The country's first The Little Gym (TLG) opened in September 1996 at the Shangri-La Mall and remains the only fitness-based total development center for children in the country. Helen Castro-Limcaoco, a mother of three and president and CEO of Just for Kids, Inc., brought the pioneering concept to the Philippines from Bellevue, Washington where the first The Little Gym opened in 1976.

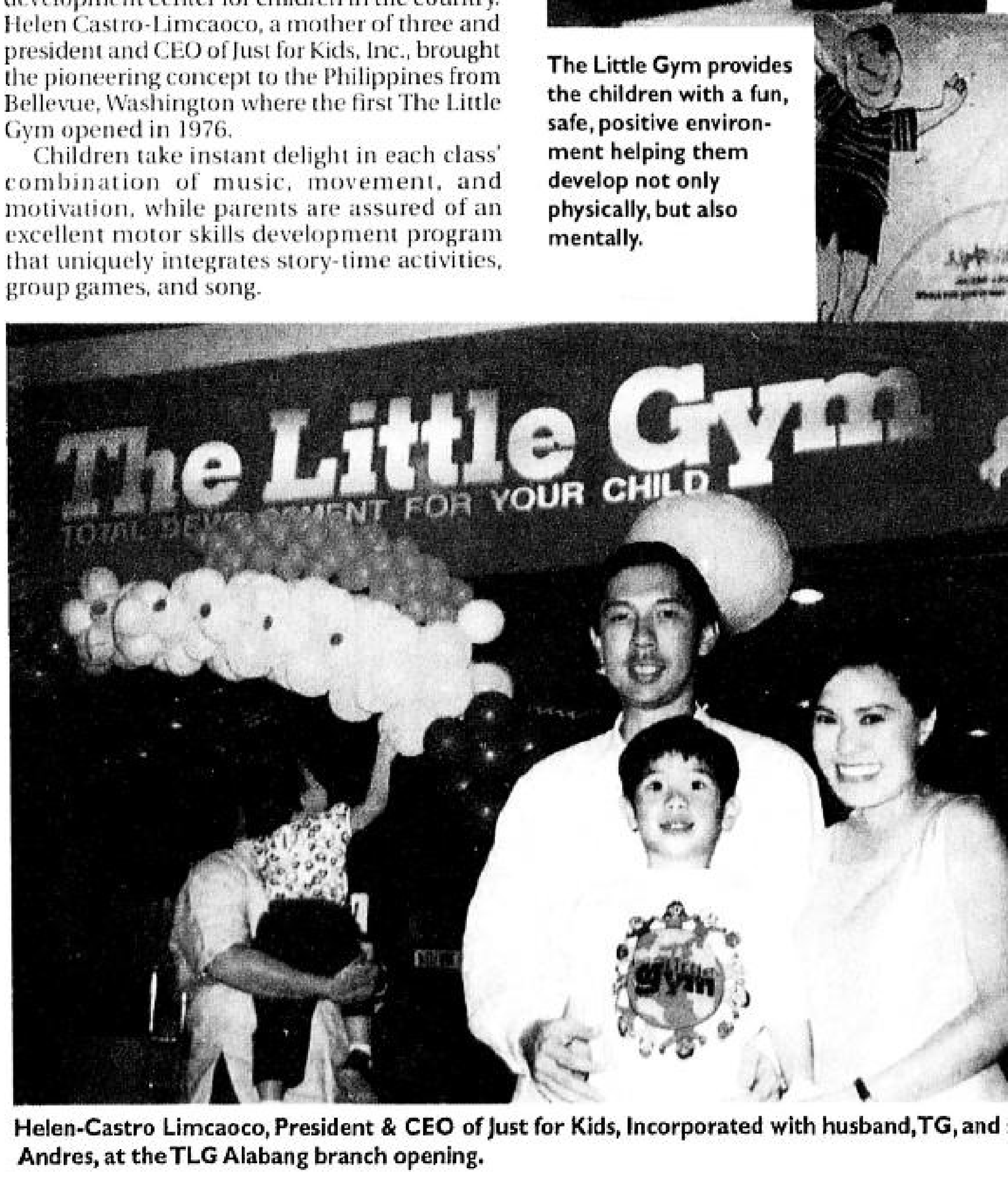
Children take instant delight in each class' combination of music, movement, and motivation, while parents are assured of an excellent motor skills development program that uniquely integrates story-time activities, group games, and song.

The Little Gym provides the children with a fun, safe, positive, and stimulating environment thereby helping them develop not only physically, but also mentally, by introducing new concepts; socially, by having them meet and interact with new friends; and emotionally, by developing their self-confidence.

Small wonder then that The Little Gym now has four well-equipped centers for children aged four months to twelve years, offering skilled instruction in gymnastics, sports development, and karate. Besides Shangri-La Mall, the second TLG outlet opened in March 1998 on Nicanor Garcia (formerly Reposo) Street in Makati City. A third center opened at the Festival Mall in Alabang, Muntinlupa City in July 1999, and the fourth Little Gym in Katipunan, Quezon City in July 2001. In February this year, The Little Gym's Nicanor Garcia center transferred to a bigger space at Fort Bonifacio.

The Little Gym is a popular destination for parents who want to motivate their kids into physical fitness and self-confidence.

The Little Gym participated at the recent Motherhood & Woman Expo to introduce Jump-A-Roo, a middle market gym, to be opened in the provinces. Shown with Helen Castro-Limcaoco (TLG President / Franchise Owner) are Cleo Alday (Senior Commercial Specialist of the US Embassy), and Ana Marie Bartolome (TLG Makati Teacher & Guidance Counselor).


The Little Gym
TOTAL DEVELOPMENT FOR YOUR CHILD

Helen-Castro Limcaoco, President & CEO of Just for Kids, Incorporated with husband, TG, and son, Andres, at the TLG Alabang branch opening.

Though The Little Gym is steadily growing into a popular destination for parents who want to motivate their kids into physical fitness and self-confidence, Limcaoco maintains a hands-on style of management. If need be, or if a teacher is not around for instance, Limcaoco will not think twice about conducting the class herself!

Last year, her efforts caught the attention of The Little Gym International when she was presented the International Franchise Owner of the Year 2001 Award for her contribution to the growth of The Little Gym in Asia.

A graduate of The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania with a Master's Degree in Business Administration, Limcaoco has opened the most number of facilities outside of the United States and has equaled the enrollment numbers of franchisees in the United States for Gyms that are the same age.

Two of her The Little Gyms, in fact, have received "excellent" ratings in the international Quality Measurement Survey (QMS). This could be attributed in part to The Little Gym's pool of highly trained, professional instructors who have solid background and experience in the field of child education/ development. 80 percent of TLG's teachers come from the top universities in the Philippines, and 25 percent have graduate degrees.

In 2000, Bob Bingham, CEO of The Little Gym International, named Limcaoco as international owner/adviser for the Asian markets. The owner/adviser system was introduced in 1999 among US franchisees to offer a system of support and guidance for new operators and new franchisees. In the system, The Little Gym franchises have advisers who have actual experiences in successfully running their own TLG franchisees.

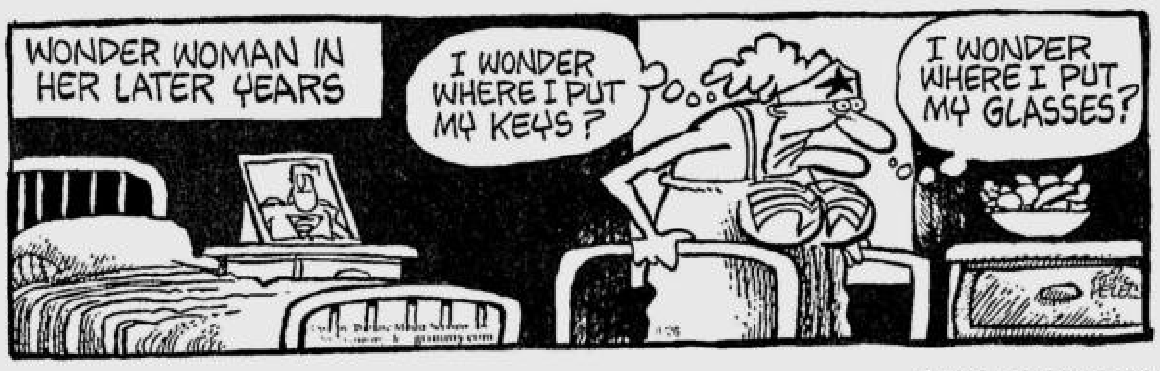
As pioneering adviser of The Little Gyms in Asia, Limcaoco's new job means regularly visiting centers in Thailand, Japan, and in the Philippines to ensure that these Gyms remain consistent with the high standards of quality set by The Little Gym International.

At five years old, The Little Gym in the Philippines is growing up to be better and stronger. A middle market brand called Jump-A-Roo will be opening soon in the provincial areas this year. In a couple of months, Limcaoco will open her fifth The Little Gym in Singapore—and her first one outside the county.

Contact your local Little Gym now at 815-1735 or 815-1779 (The Little Gym of Makati); 637-2436 or 637-2464 (The Little Gym of Mandaluyong); 850-4060 or 850-4061 (The Little Gym of Alabang); or 929-9018 (The Little Gym of East Quezon City).

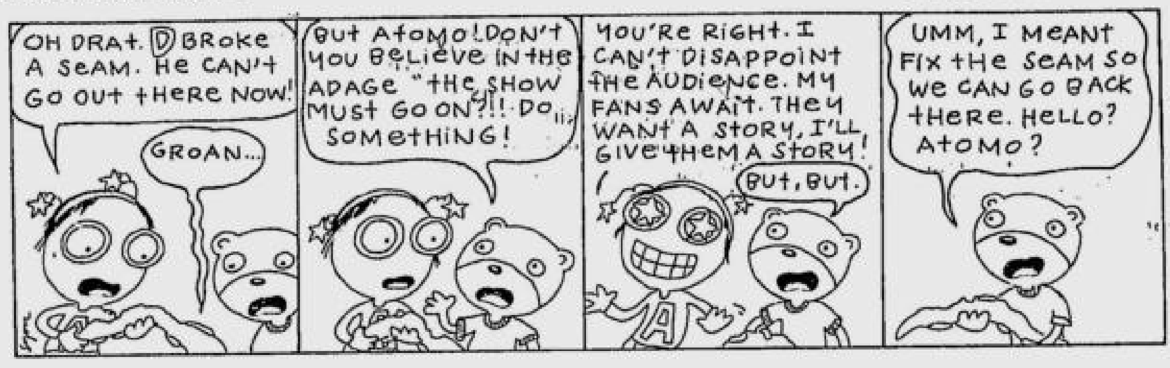
## MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


WONDER WOMAN IN HER LATER YEARS
I WONDER WHERE I PUT MY KEYS?
I WONDER WHERE I PUT MY GLASSES?

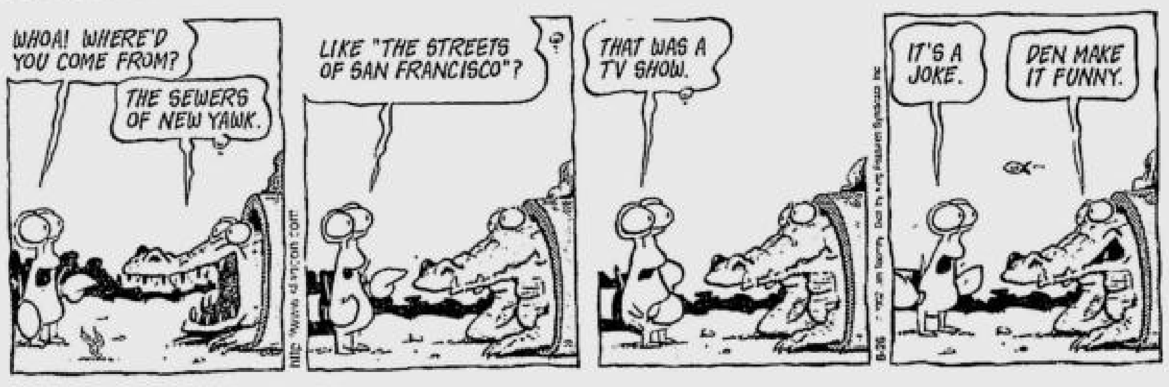
## ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


OH DRAT. I BROKE A SEAM. HE CAN'T GO OUT THERE NOW!
GROAN...
BUT ATOMO! DON'T YOU BELIEVE IN THE ADAGE "THE SHOW MUST GO ON"!! DO SOMETHING!
YOU'RE RIGHT. I CAN'T DISAPPOINT THE AUDIENCE. MY FANS AWAIT. THEY WANT A STORY, I'LL GIVE THEM A STORY!
BUT, BUT.
UMM, I MEANT FIX THE SEAM SO WE CAN GO BACK THERE. HELLO? ATOMO?

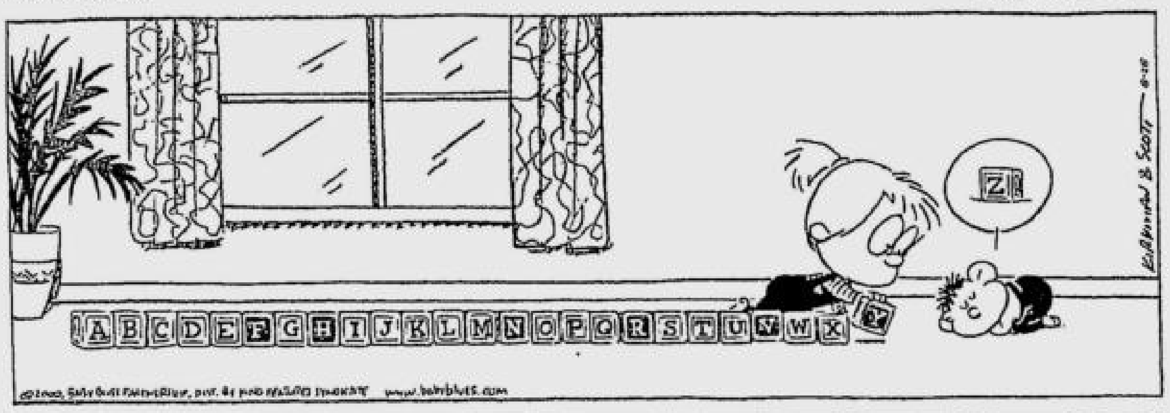
## SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


WHOA! WHERE'D YOU COME FROM?
THE SEWERS OF NEW YAWK.
LIKE "THE STREETS OF SAN FRANCISCO"?
THAT WAS A TV SHOW.
IT'S A JOKE.
DEN MAKE IT FUNNY.

## BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X
Z
Kirkman & Scott
www.babyblues.com

## HOROSCOPE

### BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Bradford Marsalis, Macaulay Culkin, Chris Burke, Geraldine Ferraro
Happy Birthday: You will be interested in moneymaking ventures that can change your life and your lifestyle this year. You must not take on a financial risk, but instead do your research well. Inheritance, insurance, winnings or investments may not be as they appear. Don't neglect the ones you love because you are so wrapped up and intent on making money. Your numbers are 11, 13, 29, 33, 35, 41

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You'll get fired up quite easily today. The busier you are the better. Too much time on your hands and you may become a little agitated by the incompetence of others.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Secret affairs may be enticing, but they'll end up being more trouble than they're worth. Put your energy into improving your current position. Financial gains can be made.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Get involved in serious organizational activities and make a difference. You should consider getting involved in political issues that can bring about change. Amorous opportunities will surface.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't let the little things get to you. The more you do to keep yourself busy, the better. Focus on making money, not on emotional issues. Think before you act.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): This is a great day to accomplish. You can sell your ideas to influential people. You should be considering starting your own business or going into business with someone else.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Your intuition will help guide you when signing contracts or formulating agreements. Put some money into property or your living quarters. The value you get in return will make it well worth your while.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Enjoy yourself, meet new people and expand your horizons. Your do-good attitude will attract a higher caliber of person who will not only admire what you are trying to do, but pitch in as well.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your get-up-and-go attitude will inspire those you work with. Opportunities are present, so don't hesitate to apply for a new position, ask for a raise or consider starting your own business.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Put your plans in motion and make whatever decisions are required to follow your own path. This is a perfect day to start a new exercise or self-improvement program.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Property and real estate should be on your mind. You can do a little wheeling and dealing, but don't overextend yourself in the process. Someone you live with may not agree with your plans, but that will change.

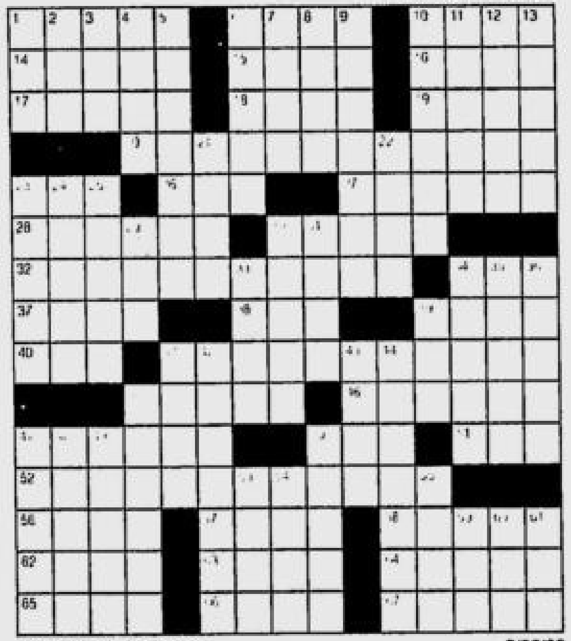
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Think about taking a pleasure trip today. You should be able to find out some interesting information if you connect with old friends today. You may run into someone from your past.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You will be able to get the help you need if you ask for it. You will achieve what you set out to do. Friendships can develop.

Birthday Baby: You will be outgoing, adventurous and strikingly good-looking. You will have the confidence to pull anything off that you set your mind to. You will be energetic, entertaining and eloquent.

## DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR
8/26/02

ACROSS
1 Poisonous shrub
6 Church seals
10 "Pequod" captain
14 Fight site
15 Mine entrance
16 Tabula __
17 Stogie or cheroot
18 Stand
19 Perfume cloud
20 Evaded justice
23 Homburg or fedora
26 High times
27 Make happy
28 Relaxed
30 Merchant's figures
32 Evaded justice
34 False front
37 Cap or pad starter
38 __ Paulo, Brazil
39 Taj Mahal locale
40 Get the picture
41 Evaded justice
45 Song of praise
46 Set an arbitrary punishment
47 1998 Masters winner
50 Priest's robe
51 Ate starter?
52 Evaded justice
56 Political cartoonist
57 Assam and pekoe
58 Detection device
62 Needle case
63 Christiania today
64 Pear-shaped fruit
65 Coloring agents
66 Hail
67 Of bygone times

DOWN
1 Cul-de-__
2 Swiss canton
3 Tilly or Ryan
4 Med. school subject
5 Go on a spree
6 Wildlife preserves
7 Perfect prose?
8 Longing
9 Spire holder
10 Military forces
11 Israeli seaport
12 Helpers: abbr.
13 Immerse in liquid
21 Paper page
22 Fido rider?
23 Pulp writers
24 Expiate
25 Conical dwelling
29 Barbary denizen
30 Progeny
31 Plenty
33 On the briny
34 Greek marketplace
35 "Operator" singer
36 Slender candle
39 Star pitcher
41 Gambling game
42 Simple shelters
43 Corridor
44 Trade restraint
45 Smith and Page
47 Possessed
48 Heavily fleshed
49 Follow as a consequence
50 Greek fable writer
53 Examination
54 Saint's aura
55 Long-handled hammer
59 Pop
60 5th or Park
61 Fled

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| H | A | R | D | T | O | P | S | ■ | S | T | R | A | F | E |
| O | P | E | R | A | T | I | C | ■ | C | R | A | V | E | N |
| T | O | V | A | R | I | C | H | ■ | R | E | C | E | N | T |
| S | L | I | M | ■ | C | O | M | P | E | T | E | N | C | E |
| P | U | S | A | N | ■ | T | I | R | E | S | ■ | G | I | N |
| U | N | I | T | E | D | ■ | D | O | N | ■ | H | E | N | T |
| R | E | T | I | R | E | ■ | T | N | T | ■ | E | D | G | E |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | Z | O | O | N | ■ | E | E | L | S | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| R | I | L | E | ■ | D | I | M | ■ | S | E | P | S | I | S |
| E | N | I | D | ■ | O | L | E | ■ | T | S | E | T | S | E |
| A | D | Z | ■ | P | R | A | M | S | ■ | S | C | O | O | T |
| D | I | A | P | H | A | N | O | U | S | ■ | T | I | L | T |
| M | A | R | O | O | N | ■ | I | N | I | M | I | C | A | L |
| I | N | D | E | N | T | ■ | R | U | M | I | N | A | T | E |
| T | A | S | T | E | S | ■ | S | P | A | N | G | L | E | D |

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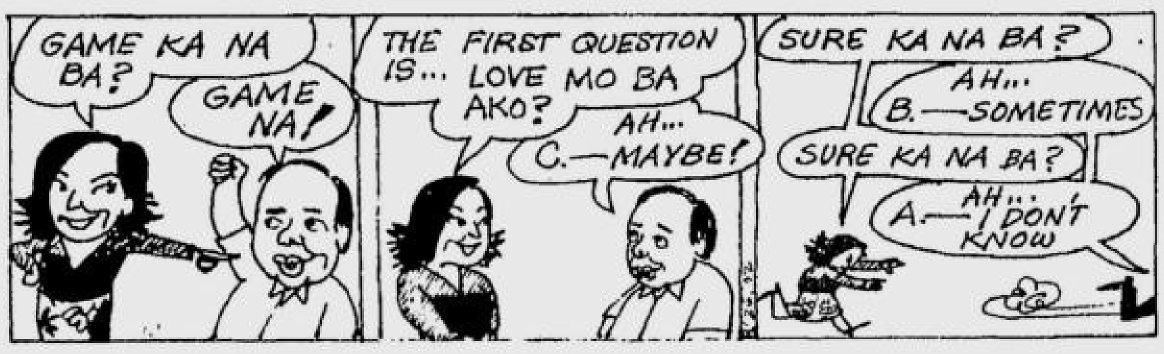
8/26/02

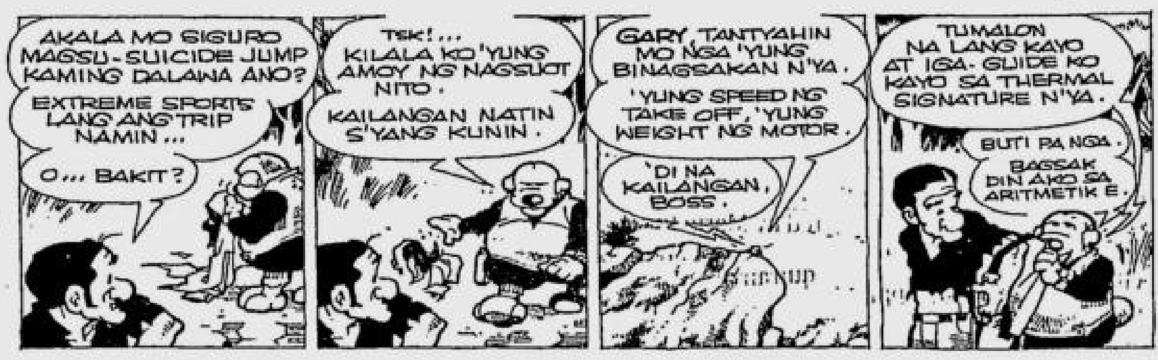
## A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


GAME KA NA BA?
GAME NA!
THE FIRST QUESTION IS... LOVE MO BA AKO?
AH... C.—MAYBE!
SURE KA NA BA?
AH... B.—SOMETIMES
SURE KA NA BA?
AH... A.—I DON'T KNOW

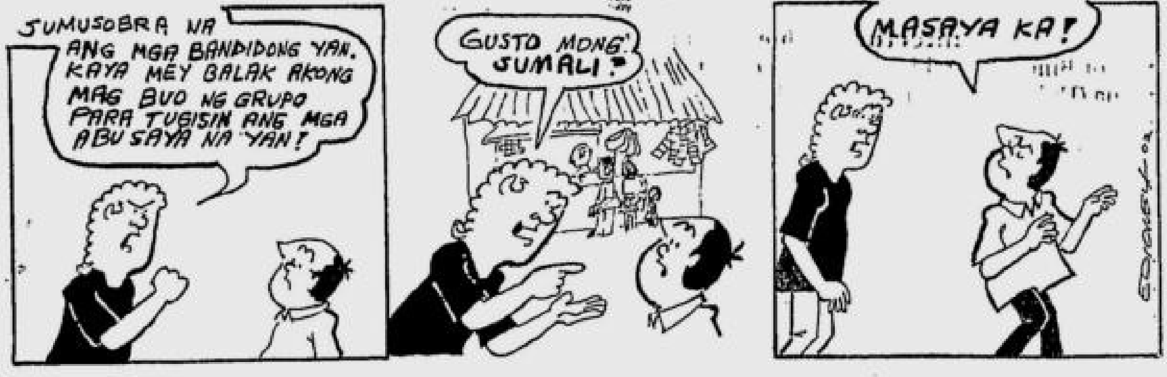
## PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


AKALA MO SIGURO MAGSU-SUICIDE JUMP KAMING DALAWA ANO?
EXTREME SPORTS LANG ANG TRIP NAMIN...
O... BAKIT?
TSK!... KILALA KO 'YUNG AMOY NG NAGSUOT NITO.
KAILANGAN NATIN S'YANG KUNIN.
GARY, TANTYAHIN MO NGA 'YUNG BINAGSAKAN N'YA.
'YUNG SPEED NG TAKE OFF, 'YUNG WEIGHT NG MOTOR.
'DI NA KAILANGAN, BOSS.
TUMALON NA LANG KAYO AT IGA-GUIDE KO KAYO SA THERMAL SIGNATURE N'YA.
BUTI PA NGA.
BAGSAK DIN AKO SA ARITMETIK E.

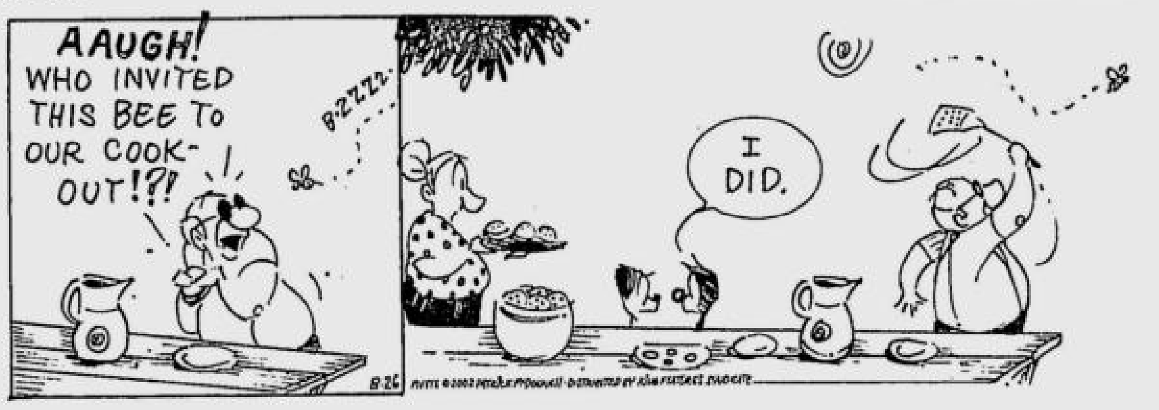
## SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


JUMUSOBRA NA ANG MGA BANDIDONG YAN. KAYA MEY BALAK AKONG MAG BUO NG GRUPO PARA TUGISIN ANG MGA ABU SAYA NA YAN!
GUSTO MONG SUMALI?
MASAYA KA!

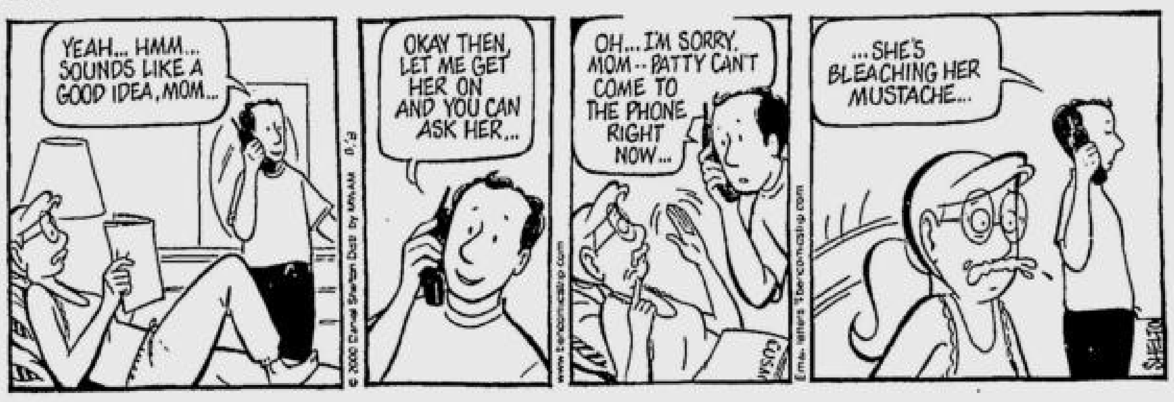
## MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNEL


AAUGH! WHO INVITED THIS BEE TO OUR COOK-OUT!?!
B-ZZZZ
I DID.
8-26

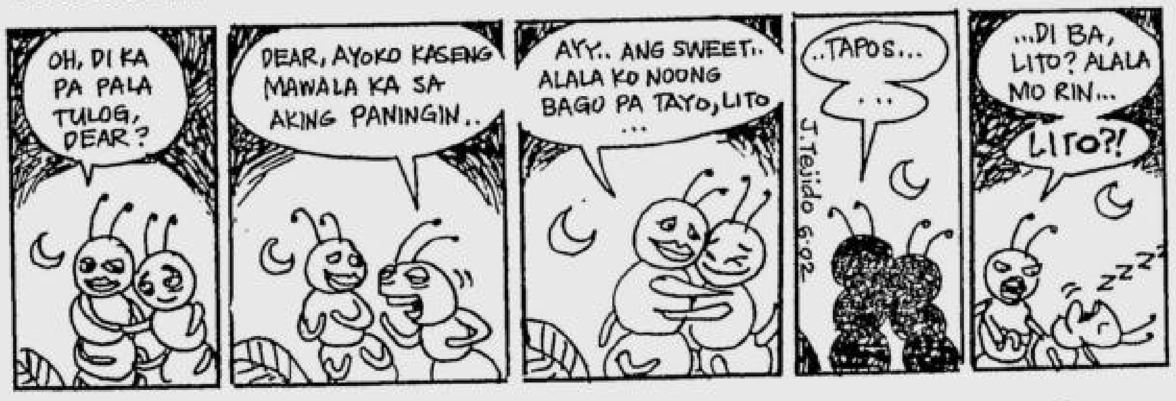
## BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


YEAH... HMM... SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD IDEA, MOM...
OKAY THEN, LET ME GET HER ON AND YOU CAN ASK HER...
OH... I'M SORRY, MOM -- PATTY CAN'T COME TO THE PHONE RIGHT NOW...
...SHE'S BLEACHING HER MUSTACHE...

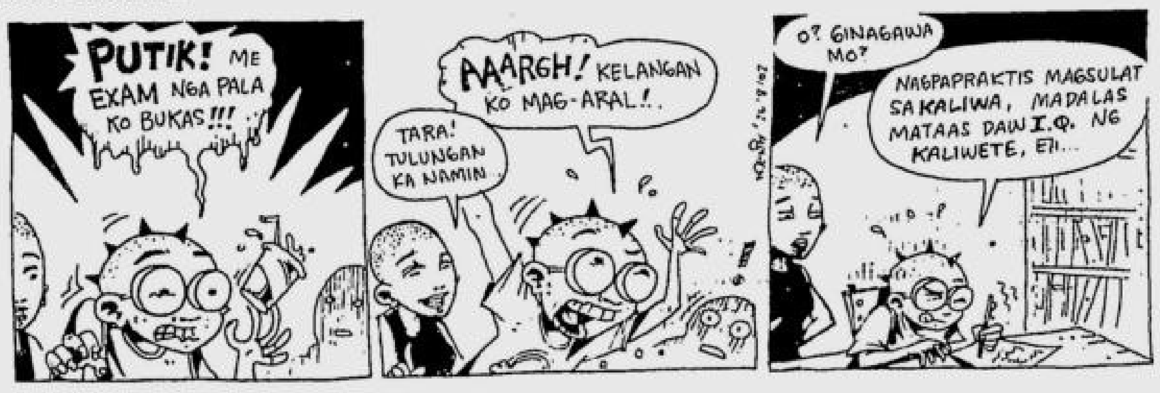
## MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


OH, DI KA PA PALA TULOG, DEAR?
DEAR, AYOKO KASENG MAWALA KA SA AKING PANINGIN..
AYY.. ANG SWEET.. ALALA KO NOONG BAGO PA TAYO, LITO ...
..TAPOS... ...
...DI BA, LITO? ALALA MO RIN...
LITO?!
J.Tejido 6.02

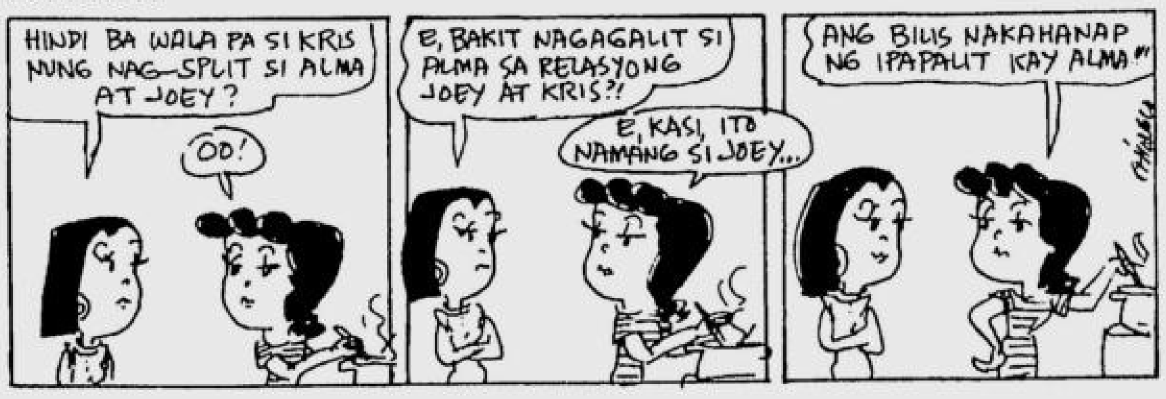
## KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


PUTIK! ME EXAM NGA PALA KO BUKAS!!!
AAARGH! KELANGAN KO MAG-ARAL!.
TARA! TULUNGAN KA NAMIN
O? GINAGAWA MO?
NAGPAPRAKTIS MAGSULAT SA KALIWA, MADALAS MATAAS DAW I.Q. NG KALIWETE, EH...

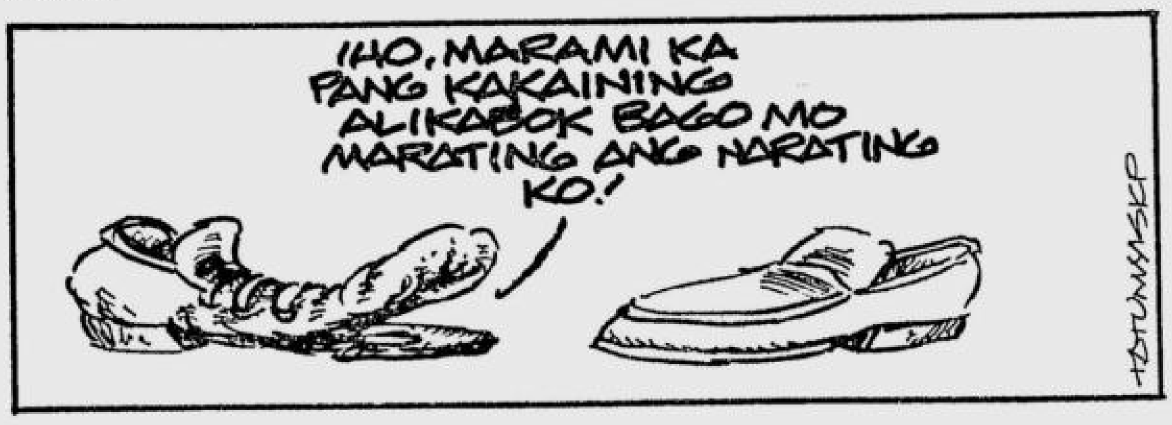
## LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


HINDI BA WALA PA SI KRIS NUNG NAG-SPLIT SI ALMA AT JOEY?
OO!
E, BAKIT NAGAGALIT SI ALMA SA RELASYONG JOEY AT KRIS?!
E, KASI, ITO NAMANG SI JOEY...
ANG BILIS NAKAHANAP NG IPAPALIT KAY ALMA!"

## TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


IHO, MARAMI KA PANG KAKAINING ALIKABOK BAGO MO MARATING ANG NARATING KO!
TATUM

## DORONILA'S EDSA II ACCOUNT TOPS LIST

# National Book Award finalists announced

THE MANILA Critics Circle recently named the finalists for the 2001 National Book Awards. Ophelia Alcantara Dimalanta, MCC chair, said the winners will be announced on Sept. 3 at the Megatrade Hall, SM Megamall, during the Philippine Bookfair.

The MCC is composed of Dimalanta, Virgilio S. Almario, Juaniyo Arcellana, Fr. Miguel A. Bernad, S.J., Cirilo F. Bautista, Isagani R. Cruz, Ruel S. De Vera, Resil B. Mojares, Danton R. Remoto and Alfred A. Yuson.

The finalists are:

**Anthology.** "Tribute: An Anthology of Contemporary Philippine Fiction," edited by Cesar Ruiz Aquino and Timothy Montes (Anvil Publishing Inc.), "Beauty for Ashes: Remembering Maningning," edited by Mario Ignacio Miclat and Romulo Baquiran Jr. (Anvil), "Reflections on Philippine Culture and Society: Festschrift in honor of William Henry Scott," edited by Jesus Peralta (Ateneo de Manila University Press) and "Malate: A Matter of Taste," edited by Thelma Sioson San Juan (Bookmark Inc).

**Arts and architecture.** "Three Centuries of Binondo Architecture" by Lorelei de Viana (University of Santo Tomas [UST] Publishing House), "Dreamweavers," edited by Ma. Elena Paterno (Bookmark), "Lugar: Essays on Philippine Heritage and Architecture" by Augusto F. Villalon (Bookmark), "Worship & Weave: Towards Filipino Liturgical Vestments" by Dom Martin de Jesus H. Gomez, OSB (Ayala Foundation Inc. and Monastery of the Transfiguration).

**Biography.** "Domingo de Salazar, OP" by Lucio Gutierrez (UST), "Hills of Sampaloc" by Benito Legarda (Bookmark), and "A Journey of Struggle & Hope: The Memoir of Jovito R. Salonga" by Jovito R. Salonga (UP Center for Leadership, Citizenship and Democracy and Regina Publishing Inc.)

**Children's literature.** "The Boy Who Had Five Lolas" by Grace D. Chong (Bookmark), "Sup?" by Ma. L.M. Fres-Felix (Adarna House), "Filipino Stories from Filipino Children: An Anthology," edited by Eleonor Eme Hermosa (University of the Philippines [UP] Press), "The Spectacular Tree," by Robert Magnuson (Lampara Books), "Once Upon a Time" by Hans Christian Anderse as retold by Fran Ng and illustrated by Arnel Mirasol (Tahanan Books for Young Readers), "Mga Ako" by Amalia Salamat (Adarna) and "Ang Pambihirang Buhok ni Lola" by Rene O. Villanueva (Adarna).

**Comic books.** "Isaw," edited by Nikki Alfar (Alamat Comics and Quest Ventures) and "One Night in Purgatory" by Carlo Vergara (Alamat Comics and Quest Ventures).

**Food.** "The Little Books" series by Gene Gonzalez (Anvil).

**Dictionaries.** "A Dictionary of Philippine Plant Names (Vol. I & II)" by Domingo Madulid (Bookmark).

**Drama.** "May Katwiran ang Katwiran at Iba Pang Dula" by Rolando S. Tinio (UP) and "Karugtong" by Jose Victor Torres (UST).

**Environment.** "Marine Reserves in the Philippines" by Angel Alcala (Bookmark), "Sulu-Sulawesi Seas" by Jurgen Freund (Bookmark), "Key Conservation Sites in the Philippines" by Aldrin Mallari, Blas Tabbaranza Jr. and Michael Crosby (Bookmark), and "Philippine Coral Reefs" by Alan White (Bookmark).

**Essay.** "Letras y Figuras: Business in Culture, Culture in Business" by Jaime C. Laya (Anvil) and "The Mad Tea Party" by Clinton Palanca (Black Book Publishing).

**Fiction.** "Suite Bergamesque" by Bobby Flores-Villasis (Giraffe Books), "A Book of Dreams" by Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo (UP), "Ka Gaby, Nom De Guerre" by Paulino Lim (New Day Publishers), "Walo at Kalahating Dekada ng Isang Buhay" by Genoveva Edroza-Matute (Anvil), "Harvest and Other Stories" by Loreto Paras-Sulit, edited by Edna Z. Manlapaz (De La Salle University [DLSU] Press), "Paghuhunos" by Ma. Ellen Sicat (UP) and "Farah" by Edilberto Tiempo (New Day).

**History.** "Sumad: Essays for the Centennial of the Revolution in Cebu" by Erlinda Alburo (DLSU), "To Suffer Thy Comrades: How the Revolution Decimated its Own" by Robert Francis B. Garcia (Anvil), "The Historicism of Teodoro Agoncillo" by Antonio Hila (UST) and "Bearers of Benevolence: The Thomasites and Public Education in the Philippines" edited by Judy Ick and Mary Racelis (Anvil).

**Journalism.** "The Fall of Joseph Estrada: The Inside Story" by Amando Doronila (INQUIRER Books and Anvil), "People Power 2: Lessons and Hope," edited by Thelma Sioson San Juan (ABS-CBN Publishing) and "Into The Mountain: Hostaged by the Abu Sayyaf" by Jose Torres Jr. (Claretian Publications).

**Law.** "The Law on Annulment of Marriage" by Jim V. Lopez (Anvil).

**Literary studies.** Abueg, Efren R. "Sila... Noon: Oral na Kasaysayan ng 9 na Manunulat na Tagalog" by Efren R. Abueg (DLSU), "History and Society in the Novels of Ramon Muzones" by Ma. Cecilia Locsin-Nava (Ateneo) and "Tellers of Tales, Singers of Songs: Selected Essays" by Soledad S. Reyes (DLSU).

**Music.** "A Life Shaped by Music: Andrea Ofilada Veneracion and the Philippine Madrigal Singers" by Marjorie M. Evasco (Bookmark).

**Personal anthology.** "A Makeshift Sun: Stories and Poems" by Gemino H. Abad (UP), "Mga Kislap ng Panulat" by Epifanio Matute (UP) and "May Isang Panahon: Mga Kuwento, Sanaysay, Tula" by Genoveva Edroza-Matute (UP).

**Philosophy.** "Thought, Necessity, and Existence: Metaphysics and Epistemology for Lay Philosophers" by Claro R. Ceniza (DLSU) and "Phenomenology: Edmund Husserl and Edith Stein" by Emerita S. Quito (DLSU).

**Photojournalism.** "Edsa 2: A Nation in Revolt," edited by Sheila S. Coronel (Asiapix and Anvil).

**Poetry.** "Nakatanim na Granada ng Diyos" by Rebecca T. Añonuevo (UST), "Shadowboxing in Headphones" by Lourd Ernest de Veyra (UST), "Tracks Without Giants" by Ramil Digal Gulle (UST), "Kaluluwa: New and Selected Poems" by J. Neil Garcia (UST), "Morpo" by Allan Popa (Collective Axis), "Marginal Annotations and Other Poems" by Edith L. Tiempo (Giraffe) and "About my Garden" by Ernest Superal Yee (Giraffe).

**Reference.** "Atlas of the Philippines" by Adarna House (Anvil) and "A Cultural Worker's First Manual: Essays in Appreciating the Everyday" by Felice Sta. Maria (Anvil).

**Sciences.** "Biology and Management of Stored Product and Postharvest Insect Pests" by Belen Morallo-Rejesus and Romeo S. Rejesus (Philippine Council of Forestry, Agriculture and Natural resources Research and Development), "Trees, Palms and Bamboos of the University of the Philippines Diliman" by Emiliano D. Sotalbo (UP) and "Disturbing Climate" edited by Jose T. Villarin, SJ (Manila Observatory).

**Social sciences.** "Reflections of Sociology and Philippine Society" by Randolf S. David (UP), "Between Fires: Fifteen Perspectives on the Estrada Crisis" edited by Amando Doronila (INQUIRER Books and Anvil), "Magosha: An Ethnography of the Tawi-Tawi Sama Dilaut" by Arlo H. Nimmo (Ateneo) and "Kinship Politics in Postwar Philippines: The Lopez Family 1946-2000" by Mina Roces (DLSU).

**Theology and religion.** "Leaving the Priesthood: A Close Reading of Priestly Departures" by Emmanuel R. Fernandez (Ateneo).

**Translation.** "Spiritual Register: The News Columns of Teodoro M. Kalaw 1926-27" translated by Nick Joaquin (Anvil).

**Travel.** "Cabinet of Wonders and Other Laguna Stories" by Anita Feleo and David Sheniak (Anvil), "Street-Bound: Manila on Foot" by Josefina Manahan (Anvil) and "Riding Towards the Sunrise and Other Travel Tales" by Alice M. Sun-Cua (Anvil).

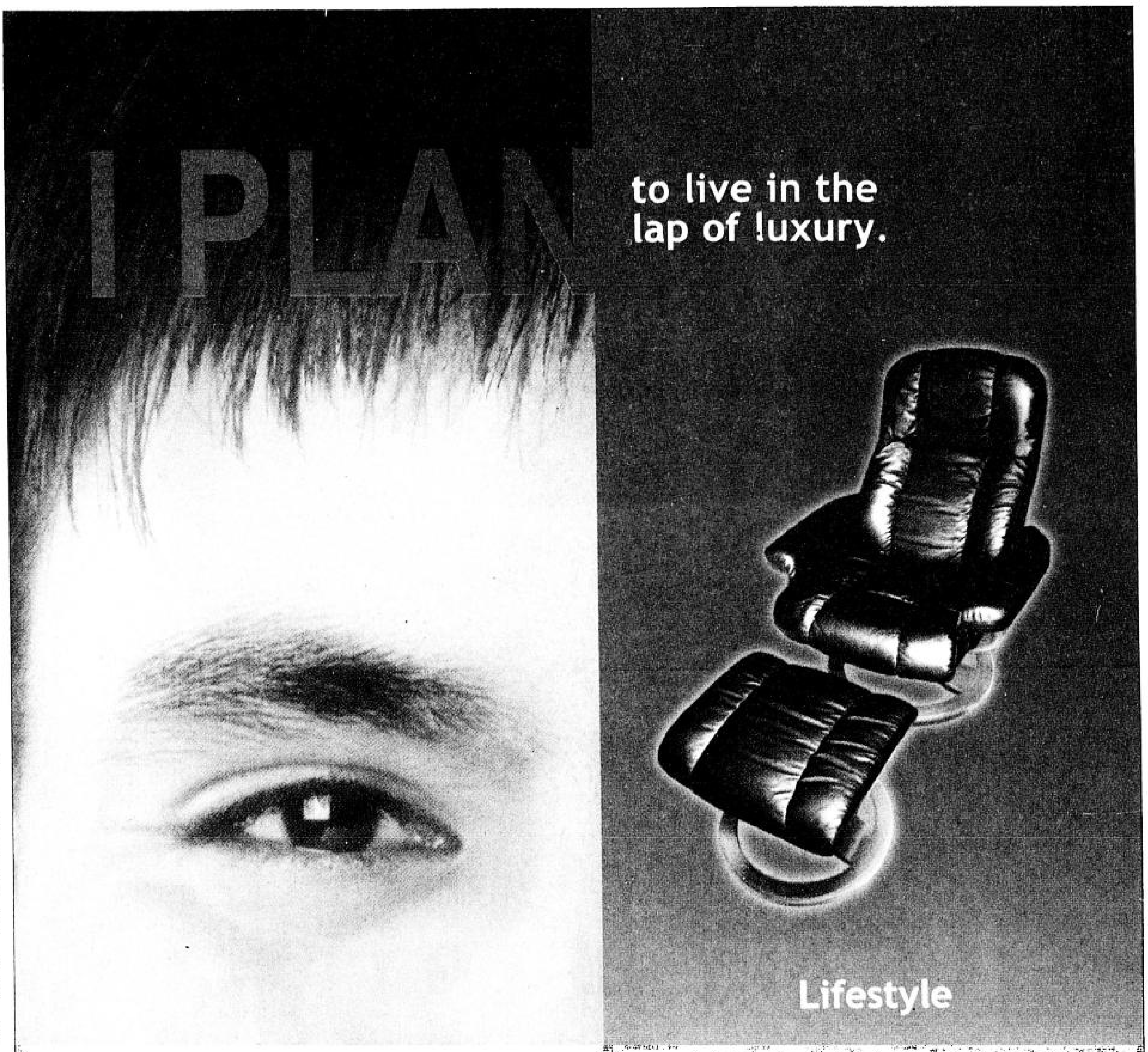
## *Forum on law and writing at UST*

THE CENTER for Creative Writing and Studies of the University of Santo Tomas will hold a round-table conference on "Writing and the Legal Profession" on Aug. 28, 9 a.m., at the CCWS conference rooms, St. Raymund's Building, UST campus, Manila.

Lead speakers are Justice Zenaida Elepano, deputy administrator of the Supreme Court, and lawyer-playwright Nick Pichay, grand prizewinner of the 1998 Centennial Literary Award.

Reactors are lawyer-writers Gerry Banzon, Franklin Abadilla and Reynaldo Lopez of the Department of Political Science and Legal Management of the UST Faculty of Arts and Letters.

Call 731-3101 local 8281.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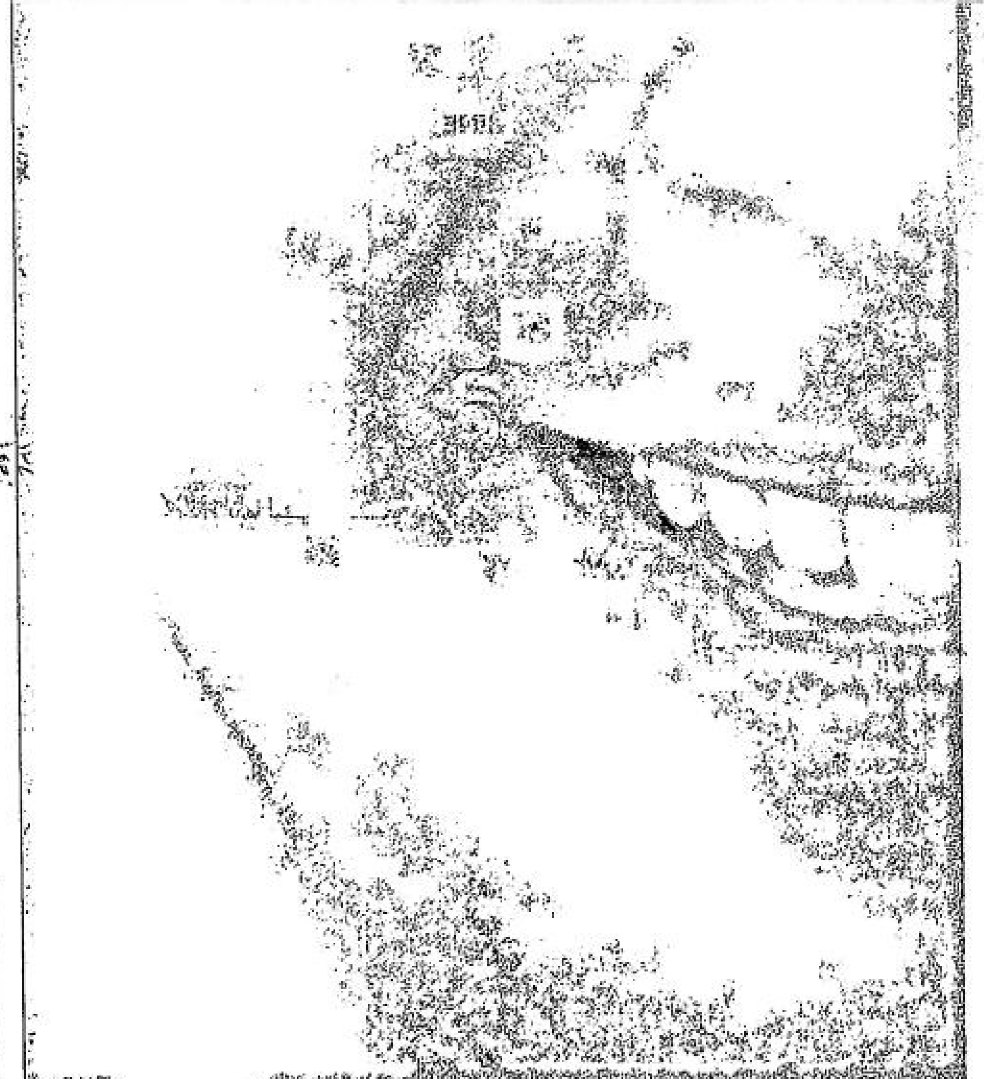

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# Reynaldo Reyes and Raul Sunico shine in piano season

**By Pablo A. Tariman**
*Contributor*

PIANISTS are still the artists to beat in the last four weeks, even after Cecile Licad's piano conquest from Manila to Laoag and Davao the other month.

An exceptionally superb recital was the one given by Baltimore-based Reynaldo Reyes, who concentrated on piano variations of Rameau, Tchaikovsky, Poulenc, Kasilag, Brahms and Schumann at the Abelardo Hall of the UP College of Music.

Reyes showed the distinct style of each piece. The way he delineated every piece with exquisite pianistic touch was the night's most rewarding concert experience.

There was subtle elegance in Rameau's Gavotte with Variations in Am. There were also marked gradations in Tchaikovsky's Theme et Variations Op. 19. The audience heard brilliant flashes of the Tchaikovsky melody in witty technical disguises.

You know that Reyes is a master of style when he dispatched Kasilag's Theme and Variations on Walang Angay with doses of the Filipino composer's East-West flavor and turned cosmopolitan sophisticate in Poulenc's Theme Varie.

His monumental rendition of Brahms' Variations on a Theme by Paganini, Op. 35 and Schumann's Symphonic Variations Op. 13 confirmed Reyes' stature as an icon in the Philippine music scene. That standing ovation was well deserved.

* * *

Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 3 returned to the CCP Main Theater only after a month, this time with another soloist and another orchestra and conductor both coming from the ranks of the faculty of the UST Conservatory of Music.

Still fresh in the minds of Manilans was the Rach 3 of Licad with the San Miguel Philharmonic under Rodel Colmenar. Now it was the turn of Raul Sunico with the Philippine Philharmonic under the baton of UST-based Herminigildo Ranera.

Before Rachmaninoff Third was a solo recital of Sunico consisting of Berg's Sonata Op. 1, Albeniz's Two Pieces from Iberia Suite ("El Puerto" and "Triana"), Ravel's Valses Nobles Sentimentales, Liszt's Vallee d'Obermann (from "Annees de Pelerinage") and Horowitz's Variations on a Theme from Bizet's "Carmen."

Sunico, the dean of the UST Conservatory of Music, didn't lack style and sensitivity, but he let the music speak for itself. In the first part, Liszt's Vallee d'Obermann was for me the most compelling and the one truly reflective of Sunico's highly rich, if underrated, interpretative style.

RAUL Sunico

In the closing part of the concert presented by the Sunico Foundation for Arts and Technology, Sunico proved that he had the technical reservoir to cope with the concerto's demand for extraordinary pianistic power and control.

But beyond technical expertise, Sunico had something else to offer. Here was a piece of music that demanded fiery interpretation, and Sunico was a detached observer of what his hands were capable of. If he was projecting strong emotions for the piece, he didn't show it, and again, he let the music speak for itself.

Ranera was a competent conductor for the piece. But I was wondering whatever happened to the dashing PPO sound in the 1999 Rach 3? To be sure, the orchestra had flashes of brilliance in the first and second movements. But it didn't quite sustain it in the last movement.

Sunico got a standing ovation for Rach 3 (Manila audiences always stand up for this piece from Phillip Entremont in the late '70s to Noel Arce in the late '80s to Licad in the '90s) and he deserved it. But the orchestra has to work double time to be in good shape.

* * *

From Singapore, Licad flew to Detroit for another Rach 3, and flag-waving Filipinos cheered her in another tumultuous standing ovation.

Then she flew to Texas to grace the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival's 30th season where she played with violinist Cho Liang Lin and cellist Ralph Kirshbaurn in Beethoven's Piano Trio No. 7 in B Flat Major, Op. 97 ("Archduke").

American critic Kristina Melcher noted that Licad, Kirshbaum and Lin's beautifully shaped and balanced ensemble playing gave the audience what they asked for on the opening night. But she added: "Licad's internal balance and vitality set the tone for the sense of creative give-and-take in the bizarre scherzo and in the profoundly reflective great slow movement. Each player knew when to highlight, when to support and when to blend in. It was a near perfect—which always trumps perfection—performance played out without the tinsel of ego. Their focus never seemed to stray from expressing Beethoven's ideas. Just great musicians playing great music."

When the festival opened 30 years ago, the old-timers of Santa Fe recalled Alfred Brendel's unforgettable B Flat Major Sonata of Schubert. Said music writer John Stege after hearing Licad and company: "Last Sunday's concert showed simply and definitively that the great expectations and performances of 1973 are still being fulfilled 30 years after."

* * *

That was a very insightful lecture given by visiting American piano pedagogue, Dr. Roberta Rust, to both piano teachers and students at the St. Cecilia's Hall the other week.

After talking about pianistic styles required of different composers, Rust admonished teachers to get in touch with what the young are listening to even in the rock or pop genre. If one is into classical music, this seems like an absurd advice. But I can see her point. She wants pianists interpreting century-old pieces to be in touch with contemporary sounds and use them for creating images for the music.

When Licad told me some years back that she had started to watch pop concerts, I thought she was kidding. The fact is, she tries to learn from every source of sound to create her own sound. When writer Danton Remoto wrote that Licad's Chopin had the feel of a rendition of a contemporary rock star, I believed him. Because Licad listens to contemporary sound, her music doesn't sound like museum pieces detached from today's workaday world.

**BAYANIHAN TO PERFORM AWARD-WINNING SUITE**
**The Bayanihan Philippine National Dance Company opens its new season with four performances on Aug. 29 and 30 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. The "Earth Rhythms" suite is based on research among indigenous tribes by Bayanihan's creative team. The highlight of the program will be Bayanihan's first public performance of "The Voyage for Love and Peace," a Muslim suite that won the Gold Temple Award and the Absolute Gold Award during the 57th Sagra del Mandorlo in Fiore and the 47th International Folklore Festival in Agrigento, Sicily, last February. Call 525-1685.**

# Cultural promotion group to hold concert

TO DEVELOP audiences for cultural presentations, the Audience Development Committee of the Friends for Cultural Concerns of the Philippines (FCCP) will hold a home concert today.

Leading the performers is mezzo-soprano Agnes Garcia Barredo, who will perform with baritone Marvin O. Gayramon.

A gifted nine-year-old pianist, Ma. Regina Montesclaros, will also perform. There will also be performances by the Philippine High School for the Arts Sanghiyas Dance Troupe, Ballet Philippines and the Las Piñas Elementary School Rondalla.

Heading the committee for this event are Letty Syquia as chair and Tessie O. Luz as director. Assisting them are Chloe Romulo-Periquet, who is the president of FCCP, Chit Gohu, Lin Liboro, Boysie Villavicencio, Pilie Aquino, Olga Martel, Mellie Ablaza, Fortune Ledesma, Mars Lambino, Fanny Blanco, Helen Ong, Nena Casimiro, Lulu Castañeda and Nene Leonor.

**THE PHILIPPINE Philharmonic Orchestra (PPO), under the baton of Ruggero Barbieri, played classics such as Tchaikovsky's Capriccio Italien and Rossini's William Tell Overture during the parish fiesta of Mt. Carmel Shrine Church in Quezon City. Soprano Ana Tirol sang with the PPO. In the photo, Fr. Jun-jun Agruda, OCD, parish priest, beams with PPO consultant Zenas Lozada, Tirol and Barbieri.**

# Diamond 'dive-in' kicks off SIM promo

Dive for a Diamond

SIM diamond promo launch winner Aida Vallido (fourth from left) with Inquirer officers and other game participants from ad agencies. From left: Donald Lim and Rene Reinoso of Inquirer, Ruel de Vera of Sunday Inquirer Magazine, promo launch winner, Vitsi Tanjuakio of Ocampo's Fine Jewellery, Totits Adorable of Ace Saatchi, Pepito Olarte and Mylene de Jesus of Inquirer, Meanne Polk and Malou Divina of Mindshare, Apple Fontanilla and Jenny Rockwell of Inquirer.

**SUNDAY Inquirer Magazine, a Sunday publication of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, launched its first-ever Diamond Be Mine promo in a "dive-for-a-diamond" event last August 16 at the Glorietta Activity Center in Makati City.**

Toy Symphony started the night with numbers from its latest album. As TGIFriday's served cocktails to Inquirer advertisers and guests, Paolo Santos' fantastic voice – accompanied by his acoustic guitar – serenaded the audience. A fashion show featuring the Mossimo Red Issue primed the crowd for the real reason for the occasion.

Program hosts DJs Georgia and Anne of Wave 89.1 introduced the promo. Diamond Be Mine gives SIM readers the chance to dive a for a round, brilliant cut diamond to be set in a 14-carat white gold solitaire ring courtesy of Ms. Vitsi Tanjuakio, Managing Director of Ocampo's Fine Jewellery.

To the guests' surprise, it was announced that they, too, had the chance to go for it that very night. The Dive for a Diamond game produced one winner, Aida Vallido, media buyer of Maximize Philippines, who found the diamond. She said it was always her dream to have her own diamond solitaire ring.

SIM turned her dream into reality. Now, SIM can make yours real, as well. Read the Sunday Inquirer Magazine and make your dream come true, one page at a time.

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine showcases engaging, in-depth stories on real people from all sectors of society. The Dive for a Diamond event was made possible by Ocampo's Fine Jewellery (with branches in Robinson's Galleria, Robinson's Starmills, Ocampo's Mall Olongapo, Ocampo's Mall Balanga), co-presented by Mossimo and Wave 89.1, and sponsored by TGIFriday's, Hallmark, Pantene and Kleenex.

Acoustic guitarist Paolo Santos

INQUIRER
B
C

Dive-for-a-diamond game

INQUIRER
Dive for a Diamond

Toy Symphony

ASSOCIATION OF ACCREDITED ADVERTISING AGENCIES-PHILIPPINES

**Breaking rules. Challenging norms. Creating change . . . for 25 years.**

First Quarter Story XXV 1977-2002

THE OPENING CEREMONIES

# 'A showcase and celebration of Filipino grandeur and creativity'

By Joel V. Nigos

**"THE ADVERTISING Summit, to be held from Aug. 29 to 31, 2002 at the Westin Philippine Plaza, will be like no other gathering of advertising practitioners ever," vows Jimmy Santiago, the overall chair of the organization's 25th anniversary celebration.**

True to form, the opening ceremonies of the Summit has only one ultimate aim—that is, for all the guests to be at their feet from start to finish!

"This is supposed to be the most creative since this is the function of the advertising agencies. Here, in Day One, it's game already. The opening ceremonies would be grand at the same time would also be centered on the people that we will give honors to," echoes Mickey Domingo, in-charge of the opening ceremonies.

The night would be a black-tie affair. All guests would be required to wear black making it the most formal night of the three-day event.

"It would be a night of tribute, as the industry would honor 4As founding fathers, the top 25 advertisers and the mavericks," says Domingo.

The whole program would also feature the grandeur that is Cinema Paradiso. The stylish era that gave dignity to cinema. The one big period that is the art deco of the 1930s. The era that gives justice to what the ad agencies are doing now.

As artistic as it could possibly be, it would also be a night of pageantry as it will veer away from the usual way of staging shows.

There would be a parade of the 70 flags of the 70 ad agencies carried by their respective CEOs.

The invocation would be done cinema-style, with the nine present directors of the 4As reciting the first 18 lines of Chapter 3 of the Book of Ecclesiastes in the Bible turned into a prayer. With sunrise to sunset as the background, it shall be shot in a way that is awe-inspiring.

The singing of the National Anthem would also be different. Using the music of the late National Artist Lucio San Pedro, it will showcase and celebrate the grandeur and the creativity of the Filipino.

Much would be expected until the night comes to a close. There would be a grand compilation of the works of the industry's top 25 advertisers where their jingles or snippets of their commercials in which they are known would be stringed together as a segue to the one big production number which would cap the night.

Truly, the opening ceremonies would be one big party. For the Association of Accredited Advertising Agencies (4As), it has been 25 years, after all ... and by the looks of it, the 4As will continue going strong for another 25 years!

**FROM left: Socky Pitargue, creative committee chair; Vanne Tomada, executive director; Adie Peña, administrative committee chair; Jimmy Santiago, overall chair; Randy Aquino, finance committee chair; Billy Rockwell, PR committee chair; and Cyril de la Rama, academe committee chair.**

THE PILAK AWARDS

## 'Mga patalastas na walang kupas'

SOME commercials dazzle, but like meteors, they quickly fade and are forgotten. Yet a few keep on playing on the screen of our minds. We sing their jingles like they were just yesterday's hit. Some lines are so catchy, so Pinoy that they have become part of our idiom: "*Magpatuka na lang ako sa ahas!*," "Order *ni Misis*," "*Iba na ang Matangkad*," "*Isang Platitong Mani*," "I can feel it!" Others we remember for their sheer boldness, using ideas or techniques that changed the advertising landscape during their time. "From Grass to Glass," for example, proved that a penstroke on white space was all that was needed to communicate a corporate vision.

Hence, the Pilak Awards. It will cap the three-day Advertising Summit of the 4As, a fitting celebration of the industry's 25 years, where recognition will be given—at last—to 25 Pilipino Adbertaysing Klasiks.

Hopefully these classics will inspire the young generation to create advertising that is so insightful, so Filipino and therefore so powerful that they will be remembered 25 years from now.

But what makes a classic? If time is the only measure, how do you explain the power of more recent ads like Sprite's "*Magpakatotoo ka,* sister!," or the swiftness with which McDonald's captured the imagination, and the hearts of the Filipino audience?

The Pilak Awards is an ambitious enterprise, requiring the participation of not just a handful of ad experts. There are three generations of judges. They were grouped into a) those with 30 or more number of years in advertising (including some retired luminaries), b) those with 15-29 years of advertising experience, and c) those who have been in advertising for at least than 15 years.

This grouping will hopefully ensure that the winners are unanimously voted by the three generations of advertising practitioners and creative minds.

## Did you know that...

1. The 4As was officially formed on July 7, 1977, or 7-7-77. Was it coincidence that then President Marcos also had a penchnat for the number?

2. The 4As was the merger of two advertising organizations: the Association of Philippine Advertising Agencies (APAA) and the Lapian ng mga Adbertaysing Praktisyoner na Pilipino sa Ikauunlad ng Sambayanan (Lappis).

3. In 1976, the estimated aggregate billings of all ad agencies was only P421.9 million. That's not even half of total adspend of the telecoms category in 2001.

4. "There's a light of hope when you light a Hope...," produced in 1975, was a jingle composed by George Canseco with the client (Louie Guison of Fortune Tobacco) as lyricist.

5. The jingle for Himlayang Pilipino was sung by Emily Abrera.

6. Joe "Jingle" Reyes, who created some of advertising's most memorable jingles like Ginebra San Miguel, White Castle Whisky, Añejo Rum, Darigold and Sigarilyong Boss, did not read musical notes.

7. For Superwheel's "Starwars" TVC featuring Tawag ng Tanghalan winner Helen Belotindos, Amar Gambol then of Image Films worked with no less than the animator of George Lucas' Star Wars: A New Hope. It was the most expensive commercial produced at that time.

8. Ace/Saatchi was first known as Ace Advertising Agency, a name chosen by Don Ramon Araneta so that his agency would be the first entry in the telephone directory.

9. JWT handled P&G (then PMC) before it handled Unilever (PRC). It also handled ABI before San Miguel Corp.

10. The Ginebra San Miguel label was designed by Fernando Amorsolo. Cesar Legaspi, H.R. Ocampo, Pete Blanco and Jerry Elizalde Navarro all worked in advertising before they became famous artists. The Lux print ad with Sharon Cuneta, Kuh Ledesma and Kris Aquino was photographed by no less than Don Jaime Zobel de Ayala.

### The Founding Fathers

[illegible]

Here they are, the 1977-78 4As Board of Directors:

**Pedro E. Teodoro**
Philprom Advertising
Chairman

**Antonio Zorrilla**
Pacifica Publicity Bureau
President

**Luis J. Morales**
Philippine Advertising Counselors
Vice President

**Lyle K. Little**
J. Walter Thompson
Secretary

**Luisita G. David**
Great Wall Advertising
Treasurer

**Maximo R. Ramos Jr.**
Aspac Communications
Corporate Comptroller

**Antonio L. Cantero**
The Group
Director

**Quintin Pastrana**
Asia Communications Center
Director

**Emil G. Misa**
The Motivators
Director

## Top 25 Advertisers

Declared One Of The 25 TOP ADVERTISERS

THEY were adjudged the Top 25 Advertisers not because they were the industry's biggest spenders, but more so because they allow for creativity in their advertising, their advertising has made an impact in the society and in the marketplace, their advertising has touched the lives of the Filipinos, have shaped their psyche and have inspired the advertising agencies as well to create more ads that would not only help propel brands to the top but also would instill values to the consumers. And more importantly they do it consistently.

Who could forget San Miguel Beer's classic jingle theme "*Iba ang may pinagsamahan, di mo puwedeng pantayan,* San Miguel Beer!" Who could not recall one's little kid's singing (with feelings) Jollibee's "I love you Sa[illegible], *pati na rin* Linggo. *Hintay ka lang* Jollibee, *nandyan na 'ko*[illegible] coupled with his constant asking if it was Saturday alread[illegible] frequently egging his mom or dad to go to Jollib[illegible]

Almost everybo[illegible] th[illegible] were shaking their shoulders then when Alice [illegible] "I [illegible]!" commercial hit the TV screens. Y[illegible]ung [illegible] constant buddy in Newtex's "*Pag*[illegible] *laga*[illegible]

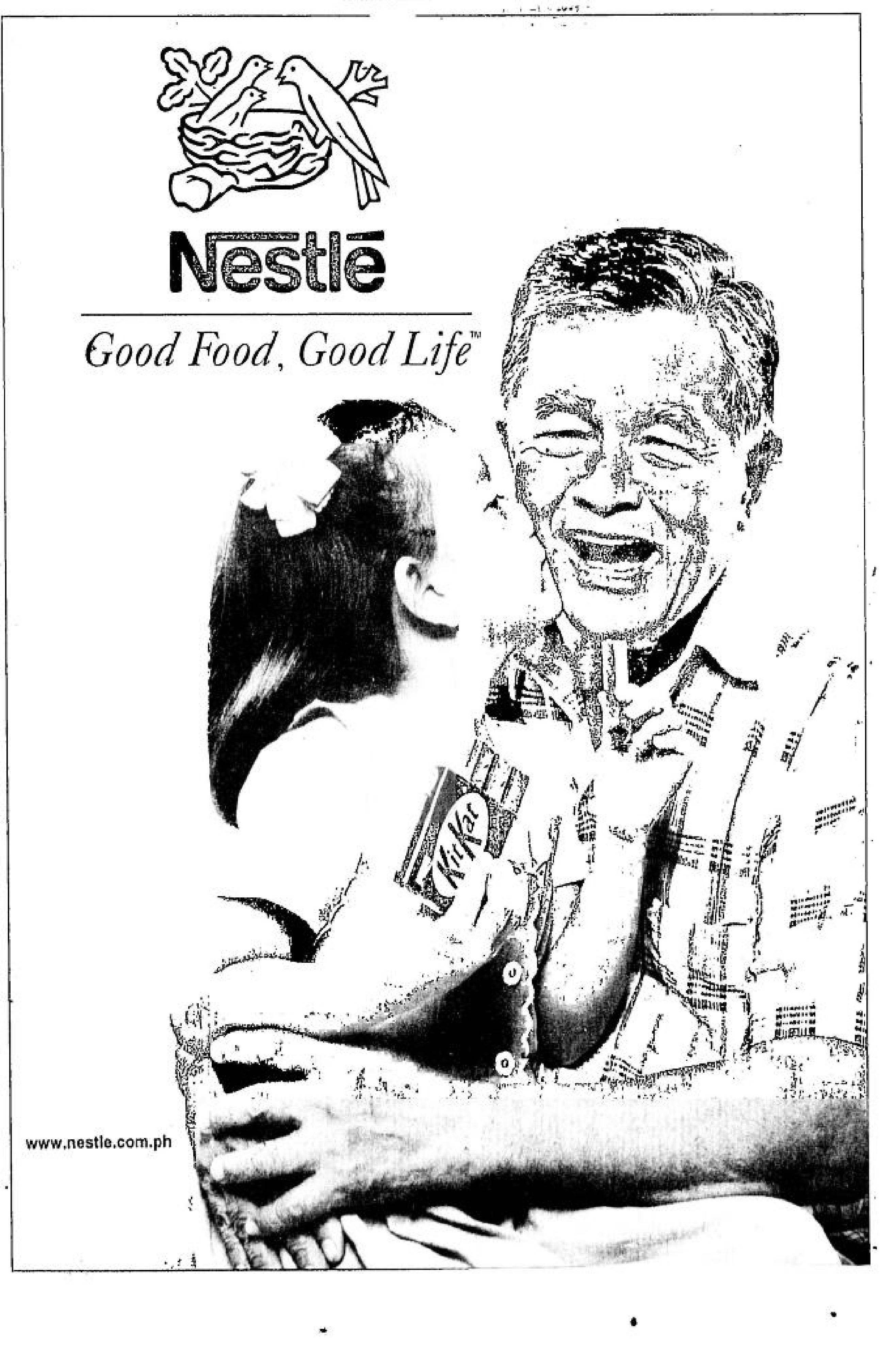
A[illegible]ently [illegible] remember Billy of PLDT, Ka[illegible] her [illegible] and Sprite's "*Magpakatotoo K*[illegible]

[illegible]g the C[illegible], the industry's Top 25 Adver[illegible] will be h[illegible] the night of tributes to all those [illegible]ave help[illegible]rtising industry where it is now.

*Joel V. Nigos*

[illegible]ere's the li[illegible] Advertisers:

**1. San Miguel Corporation**
**2. Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT)**
**3. Unilever Philippines Inc.**
**4. Procter and Gamble Philippines Inc.**
**5. Jollibee Foods Inc.**
**6. McGeorge Food Industries/McDonald's Philippines**
**7. Coca-Cola Export/Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines**
**8. Colgate-Palmolive Philippines Inc.**
**9. Nestle Philippines**
**10. Globe Telecoms**
**11. Johnson & Johnson Philippines**
**12. Del Monte Philippines**
**13. Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp.**
**14. Pfizer Inc.**
**15. Ayala Land**
**16. Wyeth Philippines**
**17. Pepsi Cola Products Philippines Inc.**
**18. Universal Robina Corp.**
**19. Bristol Myers Squibb Phils. Inc./Mead Johnson**
**20. Bayer Philippines**
**21. Kraft Foods Philippines Inc.**
**22. Kimberly Clark Philippines**
**23. Toyota Motor Philippines Corp.**
**24. California Manufacturing Co.**
**25. White Hall Pharmaceutical Philippines**



## The 25th Anniversary Theme

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

# Schedule of

**AUGUST 29/THURSDAY**

| | |
|---|---|
| 9a.m. to 4p.m. | Registration |
| 7p.m. to 8:30p.m. | Dinner, Presentation of Sponsor |
| 8:30p.m. | Opening Ceremonies (Invocation, Philippine National Anthem, Tribute to Founders, Mavericks, Advertisers) |

**AUGUST 30/FRIDAY Morning Sessions**

| | |
|---|---|
| 9a.m. to 9:45a.m. | Lecture on account planning: "Paano Mag-Account Planning Kung Wala Kang Account Planning at Account Planner?" by Dr. Ned Roberto, PhD, professor, Asian Institute of Management |
| 9:50a.m. to 10:35a.m. | Lecture on consumer study: "How Sophisticated is the Filipino? By Randy Aquino, business unit director, Jimenes D'Arcy |
| 10:40a.m. to 10:55a.m. | Coffee Break |
| 11a.m. to 11:45a.m. | Panel Discussion: "Is the Filipino Consumer Ready for Direct Comparison Advertising?" *Panelists: Research:* Mercy Abad, president and general manager, NFO Trends; GI Gatchalian, president and chief executive officer, Campaigns & Grey; Vicky Ortega, vice president - director for Brand Planning Department, Lowe Inc. *Marketing Expert:* Noy Dy-Liacco, director of communication, Nestle Philippines. *Creative:* Robert Labayen, managing partner/ECD, J. Walter Thompson; Ompong Remigio, executive creative director, DYR-Alcantara. *Social Scientist:* Randy David. *Moderator:* Atty. Katrina Legarda |
| 12noon | Luncheon, presentation of sponsor |

**AFTERNOON SESSIONS**

| | |
|---|---|
| 2p.m. to 2:45p.m. | Panel discussion: "How to Win International Competitions by Looking Filipino?" *Panelists:* Emily Abrera, chairman and chief executive officer, McCann-Erickson Philippines: Jun Reyes, managing director, Unitel; Amar Gambol, president, Electromedia; David Guerrero, chairman and executive creative director, BBDO/Guerrero Ortega; Yoly Ong, group chairperson, Campaigns & Grey. *Moderator:* Boy Abunda, managing director, Backroom Inc. |
| 2:50p.m. to 3:35p.m. | Debate: "Do We Follow the Consumers or Do |

**SMART Buddy Pure TxT 100 info:**

1. Where can we avail of the SMART Buddy Pure TxT 100 cards?

You can purchase the SMART Buddy Pure TxT 100 card from all authorized SMART dealers, SMART Wireless Centers, and TSI Outlets.

2. What happens to the voice capability of my celfone if I load the SMART Buddy Pure TxT 100 card?

Once the subscriber loads a SMART Pure TxT 100 card, the voice capability of his account is temporarily deactivated and the total balance (the ₱100 Pure TxT 100 credit, plus the existing load) can only be used for text-based services, such as regular texting, and the SMART zed and SMART Money value-added services.

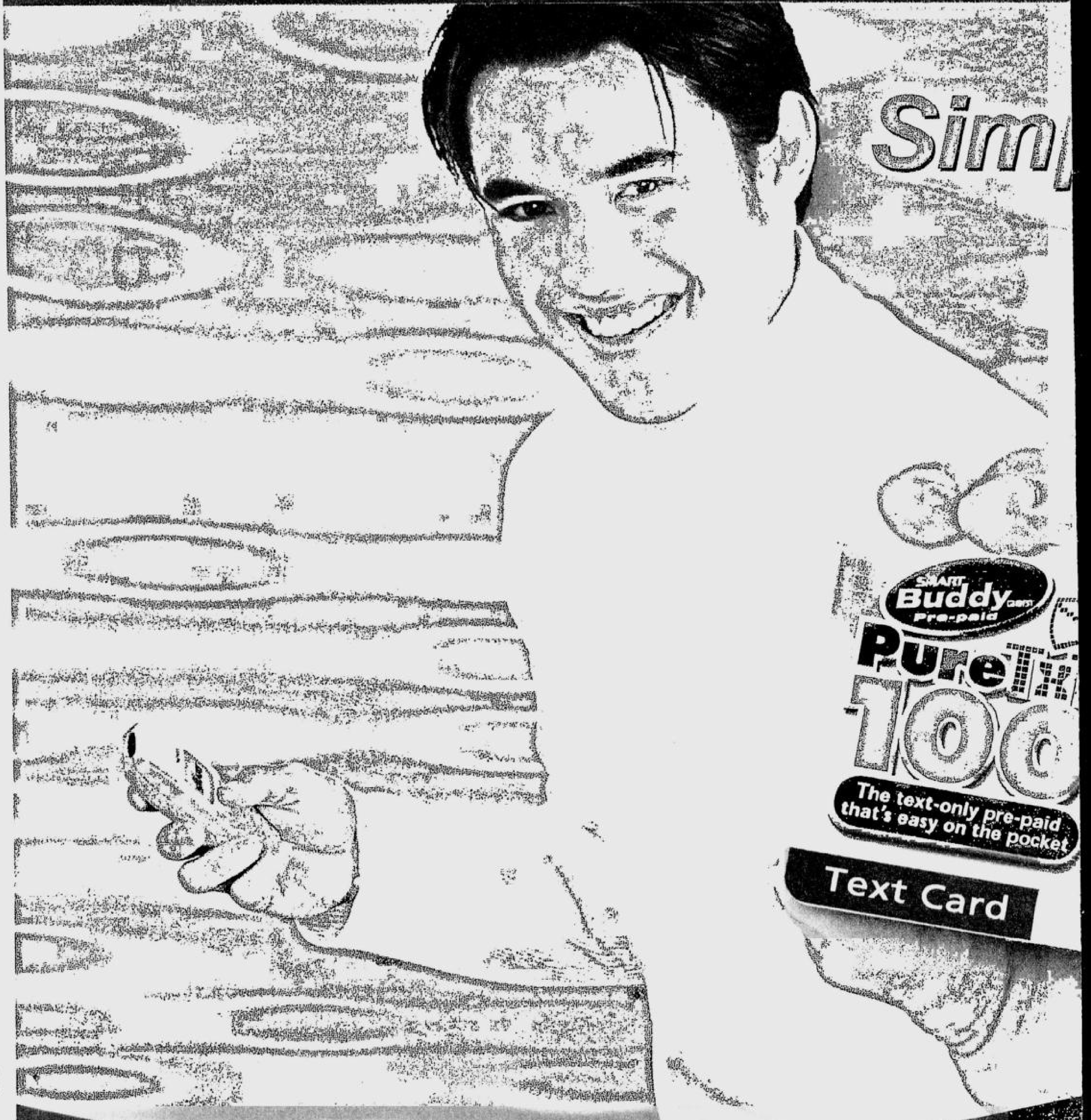
3. Do I have to buy a new SIM card if I want to avail of SMART Buddy Pure TxT 100?

No. To avail of the SMART Pure TxT 100 service, subscribers do not need to buy a new SIM card or change their phone numbers - all they have to do is load into their existing SMART Buddy GSM SIM a SMART Pure TxT 100 card, which is priced at ₱100 only, and which comes pre-credited with ten FREE text messages.

4. What happens to the previous load of my SMART Buddy Pre-paid card once I start using the SMART Pure TxT 100 card?

Once loaded with SMART Pure TxT 100, the voice capability of their account is deactivated and the total balance (the ₱100 Pure TxT 100 credit plus the existing load) can only be used for text-based services.

Is Your SMART Buddy Celfone Idle Because



SMART Buddy Pure Txt 100 allows you to stay connect

Now, SMART gives you the power to stay connected even while on a tight budget. New Pure TxT 100 from SMART Buddy is the all text pre-paid load that gets you back in touch with your circle of friends. For only P100, even the budget conscious can continue to indulge in the pleasures of staying connected via text.
And when you want to enjoy making and getting calls again, just load up with at least a ₱300 SMART Buddy pre-paid card.

*SMS rates: P1.00 per message sent; P2.50 per text-based transaction; P15.00 per logo/graphic download

# factivities

| | |
|---|---|
| | We Lead the Consumers?" *Panelists:* Evelyn Generoso, research director, NFO Trends; Carmencita Esteban, president, PSRC; Edsel Tolentino, creative director, Hemisphere Leo Burnett; Merlee Jaime, executive creative director, Ace Saatchi & Saatchi. *Moderators:* Oscar Orbos and Winnie Monsod |
| 0p.m. to 3:55p.m. | Coffee Break |
| m. to 4:45p.m. | Panel Discussion: "Media Independents: Friend or Foe of the 4As?" *Panelists:* Venus Navalta, senior vice president/managing director, Universal McCann; Jun Nicdao, president, Manila Broadcasting Corp.; Ito Ramirez, senior vice president-consumers market service, PLDT; Minda Lansang, chairman, Mindshare; Sandra Puno, vice president-media, Nestle Philippines; Tom Bangus, president, AB Communications; Nic Gabunada, senior vice president-integrated sales and marketing, ABS-CBN. *Moderator:* Paolo Bediones (tentative) |
| 0p.m. to 5:30p.m. | Panel Discussion: "Is the Client-Agency Contract Still Sacred?" *Panelists:* Charlyn Cabaero, chairman and chief executive officer, One: Manila; Eric Canoy, president, Radio Mindanao Network; Johnip Cua, president, Procter & Gamble; Meckoy Quiogue, president and chief operating officer, GMA Marketing Productions Inc. *Moderator:* Mike Enriquez, senior vice president for radio operations, GMA Network |
| 7p.m. to 8:30p.m. | Dinner, presentation of sponsors |
| 8:30p.m. | Agency of the Year Awards |
| **August 31/SATURDAY** | |
| 9a.m. to 9:45p.m. | Interactive Talk |
| | Discussion: "Myths and Facts About Advertising" *Panelists:* Don Bautista, creative director, Blue Bottle Inc.; Raul Castro, executive creative director, Lowe Inc.; selected students |
| 9:45 to 10a.m. | Coffee Break |
| 10a.m. to 11a.m. | Students' Forum: The Ad Development Process |
| 11a.m. to 12:15p.m. | Reel showing |
| 12:15p.m. | Luncheon, presentation of sponsor |
| 7p.m. to 8:30p.m. | Dinner, presentation of sponsor |
| 8:30p.m. | Pilak Awards |

## THE 4As 25TH ANNIVERSARY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**Louie Morales**, honorary chairman
**Jimmy Santiago**, overall chairman
**Matec Gargantiel**, overall co-chair and chairman, program committee
**Socky Pitargue**, chairman, creative committee
**Randy Aquino**, chairman, finance committee
**Cyril de la Rama**, chairman, academe committee
**Adie Peña**, chairman, administrative committee
**Billy Rockwell**, chairman, PR committee
**Nancy Harel**, vice-chairman, PR committee
**Blen Fernando**, chairman, sub-committee on information systems and secretariat
**Elaine Go-Mapa**, chairman, sub-committee on travel and accommodation arrangements
**Lito Yabut**, chairman, sub-committee on government relations and security
**Fely Rosales**, chairman, sub-committee on logistics
**Vanne Tomada**, 4As executive director

Your Load is Zero And You're Low On Cash?

ply Reconnect Your Celfone Thru Text For Only ₱100 !

ed even in these trying times.

s optional feature allows you to enjoy the following:
- Send and receive text messages only*
- Ten (10) free text messages for every ₱100 load
- Access to SMART zed basic menu and other text-based services

ere are two easy ways of loading:
- Over-the-air loading at all SMART Wireless Centers and TSI outlets
- Pure TxT 100 Text Card

If you want texting that's within your budget, load up now with Pure TxT 100!

THIS FEATURE IS ALSO AVAILABLE WITH TALK 'N TEXT.

5. What happens if a friend calls me on my celfone, but my load is the SMART Buddy Pure TxT 100 card? Can I answer their voice calls?

When a friend calls you while you are loaded with the SMART Buddy Pure TxT 100 card, they will hear a message stating "The subscriber you are calling may be reached through text messaging. Thank You." and they will be encouraged to text you instead. No, you won't be able to answer their voice calls.

6. Can I still download all the logos and ringtones available through SMART zed and can I still play their text-based games?

Yes. You can continue to enjoy the services offered by SMART zed, including downloading ringtones, operator logos, picture messages, and games since these are all text-based functions. The corresponding charges for each download or text remains the same even with SMART Buddy Pure TxT 100.

7. What do I do if I want to resume using the voice functions of my SMART Buddy GSM phone?

If subscribers wish to reactivate their incoming and outgoing voice service, they just have to load a regular SMART Buddy GSM prepaid card (whether of ₱300, ₱500 or ₱1000 value denominations). The voice capability is then immediately restored, and the new total balance (the existing credit, plus the newly-loaded SMART Buddy GSM prepaid value) can instantly be used for both voice and text-based services.

3 REASONS TO GO OUT AND ENJOY GOOD FOOD!
QUEZON CITY 1
MAKATI CITY 2
EL PUEBLO, ORTIGAS 3
CONGO GRILLE
"Where everything comes alive."
TELEPHONE NOS.:
750-9312
925-3896
638-3857
Lipton Ice Tea
AMPLE PARKING SPACES
PLUS FREE VALET SERVICE
Bring this ad and avail of 10% discount on cash food & beverage purchase.

## 4A'S BOARD CALL TO ACTION

The Association of Accredited Advertising Agencies – Philippines (4As-P) recently held its Media Launch as they unveiled 'The First Quarter Storm' – first-ever 4A's Ad Summit at the Multi-Purpose Area, Rockwell Power Plant Mall, Makati. Mock-picketing are the 4As' directors and officers (from left) Miguel Ramos, vice president, Tong Puno, president, March Ventosa, director, Cyril dela Rama, director, Boy Pangilinan, chair, Randy Aquino, corporate comptroller, Billy Rockwell, director and Socky Pitargue, board secretary.

## 4AS' ADVERTISING SUMMIT LAUNCHED

The Association of Accredited Advertising Agencies – Philippines (4As-P) recently held its Media Launch as it unveiled 'The First Quarter Storm' – first-ever 4As' Summit at the Multi-Purpose Area, Rockwell Power Plant Mall, Makati. Speaker and chair of the 4As' Advertising Summit Jimmy Santiago calls his executive committee members to the stage (from left) Billy Rockwell, PR committee chair, Mitos Camahort, Randy Aquino, finance committee chair, Socky Pitargue, creative committee chair, Matec Gargantiel, advertising summit co-chair and program committee chair and Cyril dela Rama, academe committee chair.

Libre
No secret deal, says Gloria
We've captured YOUR market!

Libre offers up the proverbial captive market: 600,000 working class riders of the MRT and LRT. For a few precious minutes everyday, these commuters have nothing to do but read and focus on your advertising messages. Libre's articles are short, useful and relevant to the mass market. The size is easy to handle with one hand on the grab-rail. But the best thing about it is how much it costs readers: NOTHING. Making it perhaps the most captivating thing in transit. For ad rates and other inquiries please contact: Izelle Medina (0916) 4483625 or Jenny Rockwell (0917) 2734103.

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